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Velihkov on International Fusion Reactor Project

History of Task Detailed

PM251053 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Apr 88 Second Edition p 6

[Own correspondent B. Dubrovin dispatch: "Project of the Century Launched"]

[Text] Vienna, 21 Apr—The first session of the leading organ of the project to create an international thermonuclear experimental reactor—the ITER Council—opened here today at the IAEA headquarters. Representatives of the USSR, the United States, Japan, and the European member countries of Euratom are participating in the session's work.

The scientists' task is to create an inexpensive, ecologically clean, and essentially inexhaustible source of energy.

Bilateral and multilateral consultations were held under IAEA auspices in 1986-1987, during which it was ascertained that thermonuclear research by each of the participating sides had reached a level which sets each of them the task of engineering and technical design work on an experimental reactor for the purpose of confirming the practical possibility of realizing controlled thermonuclear fusion. Taking into acount the complexity of the scientific and technical problems and the scale of the material expenditure, it was deemed expedient to resolve this task together.

It is proposed to carry out the work on the ITER project in several stages, which will be done with the IAEA's participation. During the first stage, calculated to last 3 years (1988-1990), scientists of the countries involved in the project will elaborate the concept and the possible technical characteristics of the reactor. The successful completion of this stage of work will place on the agenda the task of developing the engineering design, which is to be followed by the construction and operation of the first international thermonuclear demonstration reactor.

The Euratom Thermonuclear Research Center, located in the city of Garching near Munich, has been chosen to carry out the design work.

Answering questions from PRAVDA's correspondent, Academician Ye.P. Velikhov, who heads the Soviet Union's delegation, said:

"As far back as 10 years ago, our country had suggested beginning joint design work on a thermonuclear reactor. But at that time, the scientific results were insufficient for such joint work, and the international situation was quite different. Now that Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev has shown initiative and suggested this idea first to President Mitterrand of France and then to President Reagan, the mutual interests of the United States and the Soviet Union have found confirmation in the joint designing of a thermonuclear reactor. This idea is the Soviet 'Tokamak.'

"And now we have gathered to reach agreement on the start of this work. We have elaborated the structure of the work: scientific, design, and organizational. In point of fact, today is the birthday of the ITER project. Each country will be represented by 10 permanent participants."

Project 'Safe,' 'Acceptable'

LD232005 Moscow TASS in English 1819 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Garching, West Germany, April 23 TASS—By TASS correspondent G. Kulbitskiy:

A centre for designing an international thermonuclear experimental reactor (ITER) was opened in a ceremony today at the Max Planck Plasma Physics Institute near Munich.

The centre is being set up at the proposal of the Soviet Union which came out for the development of large-scale international cooperation in peaceful uses of controlled thermonuclear fusion.

The Soviet initiative was supported by the United States, Japan and a number of West European countries.

The opening ceremony was addressed by representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency and members of the ITER Council, the steering body of the project.

Academician Yevgeniy Velikhov, vice president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, in a TASS interview, described the opening of the centre, at which 40 physicians from different countries will work, as an "unprecedented and historical event".

"Of course, thermonuclear fusion will not solve all problems, but this is the most promising source of energy which should not only be safe but also acceptable from the viewpoint of the world's ecology," he said.

2-Day Council Session Held

PM260855 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Own correspondent S. Tosunyan report: "Plan for 21st Century"]

[Text] Vienna—The session of physicists from the USSR, the United States, Japan, and the countries belonging to Euratom which ended here on Friday

approved the composition of the International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor [ITER] Council, the leading organ of the project to create an international experimental thermonuclear reactor. Academician Ye.P. Velikhov, who took part in the session's work, told your correspondent:

The creation of the ITER Council is a unique event in the history of the world scientific community and marks the birth of a new form of international cooperation to master the control of thermonuclear synthesis for peaceful purposes. This has become possible thanks to the fact that work on plasma physics has made substantial headway. The improvement of the international situation has also helped.

In 1985 M.S. Gorbachev suggested to French President F. Mitterrand and U.S. President R. Reagan that they pool the efforts of scientists in different countries to build an experimental reactor.

Over the 2 days the session was held, we heard reports on the state of affairs in the Euratom Thermonuclear Research Center in the West German city of Garching where the planning of the experimental "Tokamak" reactor will be done.

When the experimental station is ready, its thermal yield will be 500-600 megawatts and it will generate electricity, but not for commercial purposes. At the station we will be able to verify all technological decisions, materials, structures, and principles of control.

The implementation of the ITER project will be a very important scientific achievement with which mankind will enter the 21st century.

Decision To Join INTERPOL 'Premature'

LD222145 Moscow TASS in English 1520 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—TASS correspondent Nikita Demidov reports:

The crime rate and the effort to combat crime in the USSR do not compel it to take the ultimate decision on entering the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), a spokesman for the USSR Ministry of the Interior told the TASS correspondent.

The spokesman answered a question connected with a Reuter report that according to INTERPOL Secretary General Raymond Kendall the USSR is soon to become the 147th member of that international organisation.

The notion of "international crime" so far does not apply to crime in the USSR, the spokesman said. The stealing of cultural values and international terrorism are crimes that are not characteristic of the crime scene in the USSR.

The Soviet side can cooperate with INTERPOL so far only as regards combatting the contraband of narcotics. The USSR has experience of cooperating with capitalist states in this respect. A memorandum on mutual understanding between the Governments of the USSR and Great Britain as regards cooperation in the area of illegal production and trafficking of narcotics and psychotropic means and their abuse was, for instance, signed recently.

The spokesman for the USSR Ministry of the Interior noted that the question of the possibility of the Soviet Union's participation in INTERPOL had been raised by the secretary general of INTERPOL himself early this year. So it is premature to say that the Soviet Union will enter INTERPOL soon. The discussion of this matter has just been started.

KGB Defends Jamming of 'Subversive' Radios

PM251048 Moscow ARGUMENTY I FAKTY in Russian
No 17, 23-29 Apr 88 (Signed to Press 21 Apr) p 2

[Unattributed, untitled answer to reader's letter under the rubric "The USSR KGB Reports and Comments"—first paragraph is reader's letter]

[Text] Why are we continuing to jam broadcasts by Radio Liberty and Radio Free Europe, when we have stopped jamming the Voice of America, BBC, Deutsche Welle, and other "radio voices"? asks N. Panin of Sochi.

The radio station Radio Liberty-Radio Free Europe [RL-RFE] was set up in the early fifties, and its headquarters is in Munich, FRG. This hypocritical title is basically a cover for the subversive radio organ of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which operates as a subunit designed to carry out acts of ideological subversion against the USSR and the other socialist countries.

The "global" tasks of RL-RFE were made clear in the statement by C. Jackson, chairman of the radio station's so-called "organizing committee," at the opening of the radio station. He stated, in particular: "The radio station is a service in the psychological war. It was founded to provoke internal disorders in the countries to which it broadcasts.... Military interference only has any meaning if the peoples of the countries that interest us have been inculcated with the impetus to armed operations within the country against the existing governments there.... At the same time, it is to be a central, coordinating organization capable of rallying and directing the activity of all anticommunist forces in the West, and ultimately it is to be a symbol of the peoples' liberation from Bolshevism...."

Virtually all leadership posts at the radio station are held by cadre staffers of the CIA and U.S. military intelligence, who organize, direct, and coordinate the activity of all the hostile center's "services." At the same time, in Paris, the CIA residency operates under the cover of the "Department for Audience Research and Effectiveness

of Broadcasting" of RL-RFE. Its mission includes the questioning and hostile indoctrination of Soviet citizens temporarily abroad and the attempt to find among them persons with low moral qualities and insufficiently stable political ideas, with a view to enlisting such persons to cooperate with American intelligence.

On the orders of the special services, RL-RFE is constantly changing its tactics, using sophisticated means and methods of exerting a hostile ideological influence. In the present-day situation, together with the old, outmoded calls for the kindling of discord between nations, incitement to religious fanaticism, and so forth, the RL-RFE radio saboteurs seek, in their broadcasts in the languages of many nationalities, to "convince" listeners of the "futility" of restructuring and the program for socioeconomic renewal of our country.

Here are a few specimens of RL-RFE appeals:

"If any Soviet person still doubts the expediency of disobedience to the authorities, may we recommend him to abandon illusory dreams and soberly assess reality...."

"The Western public has hopes that the strike movement in the Soviet Union will spread and that people will make use of strikes, a legal method of struggle, with the aim of changing the regime that exists in the country...."

"The big and small nations and ethnic groups living in the Soviet Union are virtually in a state of hostility. This conflict will continue to deepen and will seemingly be the basis for the collapse of the Bolshevik tyranny...."

Comment, as the saying goes, is superfluous.

Security Experts Hold Consultations in Moscow

PM251205 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Experts' Consultations"]

[Text] Consultations of experts have been held in Moscow on important conceptual questions of the current international situation. They were organized by the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, the Committee of Soviet Scientists in Defense of Peace and Against the Nuclear Threat, and the International Security Foundation (Britain). Eminent scientists and public figures from the USSR and Western countries took part in the meeting.

There was a discussion of the theoretical and practical aspects of the concept of all-embracing security and peace, questions of ensuring strategic stability with radical reductions of nuclear arms, problems of European security since the signing of the treaty on intermediate- and shorter-range missiles, and the development and prospects of the all-European process. The participants in the meeting stressed the need for new political thinking in approaches to creating lasting international and European security and to real and effective headway on the path of disarmament, consolidation of mutual trust, and development of cooperation. In the unanimous opinion of the Soviet and foreign participants, meetings and exchanges of this kind should be held on a continuous basis, helping to reveal the sides' positions more precisely and to find common approaches to the solution of urgent problems of security and cooperation in Europe and the world.

Soviet, Helsinki Human Rights Groups Meet

LD252318 Moscow TASS in English 2215 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Vienna April 25 TASS—Representatives of the International Helsinki Human Rights Committee and the Soviet Public Commission on Humanitarian Cooperation and Human Rights met for their second meeting here today.

Karl Schwarzenberg, chairman of the Helsinki Committee, told newsmen that during the discussion an interesting and fruitful exchange of views was held, which, naturally, revealed certain differences. He said that the participants in the meeting favoured the setting up of working commissions which would focus on specific problems.

Fyodor Burlatskiy, chairman of the Soviet commission, spoke about the organisation's activity and noted that it served the goals of ensuring openness and meeting the purposes of the restructuring process under way in the Soviet Union.

Delegate Views Tripoli Conference on Terrorism

PM251017 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[IZVESTIYA and NOVOSTI own correspondents D. Velikiy and R. Agayev report: "Look Out: Terrorism!"]

[Excerpts] Tripoli, Cairo—These are alarming days in the Mediterranean countries. Heightened security measures are being taken at airports in Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, and Cyprus. Customs procedures and lines at passport control points have lengthened unbelievably. The authorities are attempting to erect a barrier against terrorist explosions in the region. Algeria and Cyprus have witnessed continuing crimes by air pirates, and in Tunisia Abu Jihad (Khalil al-Wazir), one of the PLO leaders, and members of his personal bodyguard were murdered. In these strained times, an international conference with the motto "Look out, terrorism!" has been held in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

More than 140 representatives of diverse parties, movements, and public organizations from 25 of the world's countries were at the conference. During the forum's work, forms of terrorism were defined by its participants and the concept itself was specified.

"In this sense an important result of the conference is the distinction which the participants clearly drew between state terrorism and revolutionary struggle by representatives of the national liberal movement," E. Kovalev, head of the Soviet delegation, expressed his opinion in conversation with us. "Attempts to denigrate patriotic actions are being decisively exposed in statements by the forum's participants. This was mentioned in one of the conference seminars on the theme 'State Terror by Israel in Palestine'."

When we had familiarized ourselves with the conference reports, we came to the conclusion that virtually the bulk of them was devoted to state terrorism. Often the organizers referred to Tripoli's harsh experience, a city on which bombs marked "Made in the USA" rained down 2 years ago. [passage omitted]

UN Security Council Debates Al-Wazir's Death

LD230815 Moscow TASS in English 0616 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 23 TASS—The assassination by Israeli agents of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], a prominent Palestinian figure, staged in the territory of Tunisia is an act of the policy of state terrorism conducted by Israel, speakers at a U.N. Security Council session here convened at Tunisia's request note.

The Security Council met six times already in the last four months to discuss the Israeli acts of aggression, said Rashid Fakhuri, permanent representative of Lebanon to the United Nations. Tel Aviv, however, displays cynical indifference to Security Council resolutions. Israel has never complied with provisions of the U.N. Charter and, despite everything, went ahead with its criminal policy.

At a time when the Security Council considers the issue of its new act of aggression, it commits new crimes by bombing two Lebanese cities Friday morning. The representative of Lebanon demanded that the Israeli crimes be strongly denounced, and underscored an imperative need to put an end to them by the efforts of the entire world community.

The act of terrorism perpetrated by Israel cannot be viewed as a phenomenon which is isolated from its general policy line, said A. Belonogov, permanent representative of the USSR to the United Nations. It is perfectly obvious that there is a direct link between the Israeli action in Tunisia and the Israeli invaders' actions in the Arab territories seized by them. However, all these barbarian crimes—killings, torture, reprisals—are unable to arrest the struggle by the Palestinian people for their lawful national rights.

Representatives of over 30 countries, who spoke at the session, demanded that the aggressor be condemned and effective measures be taken to stop its criminal actions.

United States & Canada

Shultz Briefs Press on NATO Council Meeting

LD251431 Moscow TASS in English 1411 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Brussels April 25 TASS—An extraordinary session of the NATO Council at the level of foreign ministers opened at the headquarters of the North Atlantic Alliance today. The session was convened to hear a report of U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz about the results of his talks with Soviet leaders in Moscow.

Upon the conclusion of the session, the head of the U.S. foreign policy department gave a brief press-conference at which he said that in-depth consultations had been held with foreign ministers of the NATO countries. These were useful debates, George Shultz emphasized.

George Shultz said the agenda of his talks in Moscow had been very intensive: Security matters, human-rights problems, regional conflicts, as well as the program of President Reagan's visit to the USSR had been discussed.

The secretary of state added that mutual effort for the advance of the talks related to strategic offensive arms reduction had been taken. He noted that attention had been given to conceptual aspects, provisions of the ABM Treaty, as well as verification and counting of various weapon systems of the two sides. He noted it was very important to reach agreement on strategic offensive arms, but it was no less important to ensure that it be a good agreement. He said a concrete talk was being held with the USSR on those types of armaments that were at the basis of Soviet and American deterrence forces, that a cautious approach was needed and that that was precisely the U.S. approach.

George Shultz emphasized that effort to achieve agreement on strategic offensive arms would be continued even after President Reagan's planned visit to Moscow. He added that apparently a new president of the USA would have to continue the work started in the area. But he noted that as far as he knew all the presidential candidates supported the idea of concluding an agreement on a 50-per cent cut in strategic offensive arms by the USSR and the USA.

The U.S. secretary of state added there existed excellent prospects for holding negotiations on conventional armaments. The point of the matter at present was when to start them.

Asked about prospects for creating the climate for detente in relations between the USA and the USSR George Shultz said that the overall picture was not bad, that there was progress. The current situation in bilateral relations differed much from the situation that existed a few years ago. Yet much remained to be done. The Washington summit created a good basis for a fruitful development of Soviet-American relations. The two countries had different social and economic systems, different values, but there was great mutual interest in the improvement of bilateral relations.

Journalists reported that in the framework of the session of the NATO Council George Shultz held a meeting with Danish Foreign Minister Uffe Ellemann-Jensen, in connection with a decision of the Folketing banning nuclear-armed ships' entry into Danish territorial waters and calls in Danish ports. Answering questions of correspondents about that meeting, the secretary of state admitted that the Folketing's decision had created a veritable problem for NATO. He declined to comment on Denmark's action saying it would be interference in its internal affairs.

Shevardnadze Briefs Socialist Envoys on Talks

LD231612 Moscow TASS in English 1556 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 23 TASS—Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze today received ambassadors and charges d'affaires of socialist countries.

These included Ambassadors Nguyen Manh Kam of Vietnam, Gerd Koenig of the German Democratic Republic, Kwan Hui-kyong of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Julio Camacho Aguilera of Cuba, Thongsavat Khaikhamphithoun of Laos, Tserengiyn Gurbadam of Mongolia, Wlodzimierz Natorf of Poland, Ion Bucur of Romania, Jindrich Rehorek of Czechoslovakia.

And Charges d'Affaires Franz Spasov of Bulgaria, Janos Barabas of Hungary, and Leng Peng Long of Kampuchea.

The minister informed them about the conversation between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and about the results of Soviet-U.S. talks in Moscow, and asked them to convey this information to the party and state leaderships of their countries.

Further on Shultz Moscow News Conference

PM250955 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[Report by A. Kuvshinnikov: "G. Shultz' News Conference"]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] I have attended several of G. Shultz' news conferences. None lasted more than 40 minutes. After an introductory word, U.S. State Department spokesman C. Redman, who invariably is in charge of these events, gave five or six journalists, mainly those accompanying the secretary of state, the chance to ask a question. So it was on this occasion, too.

Question: Reading between the lines of your statement, you reach the conclusion that there is virtually no chance left of preparing a treaty on the reduction of strategic offensive arms by the time of the Moscow summit. Is that a correct reading?

[Shultz] There will be one more meeting of ministers before the summit. Time is passing and the situation is becoming complex. Nonetheless, in my view it is essential to continue to make every possible effort in this direction, and we will do so.

Question: Mr Gorbachev told you, if I understood him correctly, that the U.S. side is procrastinating. According to Mr Korniyenko, a great deal of time was lost at the Geneva talks because of the U.S. delegation. Mr Karpov expressed impatience in connection with the progress of your talks here inasmuch as the theme of arms control was finally deferred. Is there an element of truth in these statements?

[Shultz] Headway costs great effort. I have already told you of several fields in which we have made new proposals at these talks. So from our viewpoint we are a long way from procrastinating. On the contrary, we are maintaining the pace. I do not want to assess the Russians' approach or our approach.

Question: The U.S. side wants to achieve a settlement in the Near East through separate talks. But 9 years ago such talks took place between Egypt and Israel—and led to nothing. Perhaps it is worth trying another way?

[Shultz] I think that if headway is to be noted anywhere, then it is only as a result of direct bilateral talks. The dialogue between Egypt and Israel produced dramatic results. The peace treaty existing between them is a cornerstone of the process of a Near East settlement. An international conference could play a constructive part, possibly as an umbrella over bilateral talks or as a guarantee of the accords achieved at them. The conference could engage in regional economic issues and refugee problems on a regional scale. But as regards the main issue history shows that it must be resolved through bilateral talks.

Question: People interested in President Reagan's political countenance and the place to which he lays claim in history see in the Moscow summit his last triumphant appearance on stage. Will their hopes be realized? After all, to judge by what you have said, the summit meeting will come down exclusively to routine talks.

[Shultz] Well, there are talks and talks. I believe that the forthcoming summit meeting, like all preceding meetings, will take place in a businesslike atmosphere. We have something to say face to face. It will be the fourth Soviet-U.S. summit in just 2 and 1/2 years and if you compare the present situation with what existed in the middle of 1985, you can see that it has changed radically. The meetings between the President and the general secretary, their tone and content, and the trust with which they have met have become a very important lever in implementing this turnabout.

Commentary on Shultz-Shevardnadze Moscow Talks

Kozyakov Notes 'Cloud' Over Visit

LD261135 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] At the end of last week, Secretary of State George Shultz took part in talks held here in Moscow with an eye to the coming Soviet-American summit. Our commentary has been prepared by Vladislav Kozyakov:

The two sides agreed that on the whole they'd done a fine job. Both believe they have helped clear the way for the meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan that will take place in Moscow from 29 May to 2 June. Headway was achieved on some questions and an understanding was reached on some others. But the discussion also revealed some stumbling blocks. As for the pivotal question of drafting a treaty to reduce by half strategic offensive weapons, given the observance of the ABM Treaty, Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze said a good foundation had been laid for making practical headway at the talks. He is to meet with George Shultz in early May again.

Still, I feel the visit of George Shultz to the Soviet Union was shrouded in a cloud. The cloud came from the United States rather than from the Soviet Union. At a time when the secretary of state was discussing in Moscow the key problems of international security and cooperation between our two countries, the White House came up with propaganda-oriented stereotypes. It claimed the Soviet Union was looking for an agreement because it was weak, whereas the United States was pursuing a policy from a position of strength. The United States President even tried to teach the Soviet people what they had to do in their own country. When Mikhail Gorbachev was playing host to George Shultz in the Kremlin last Friday, that was what he drew the state secretary's attention to. He said the President didn't want to take into account political realities and disregarded the interests of other nations and the principle of a balance of interests. The Soviet leader felt that was the root of certain signs of difficulties at the talks, including the ones relating to Ronald Reagan's forthcoming visit to Moscow.

Incidentally, if we take a look at history, we can see that Soviet-American relations have always suffered from the American policy from a position of strength. A policy of this kind has always been harmful. Soviet-American diplomatic relations were established in 1933 under President Franklin Roosevelt. They were based on mutual respect and the Soviet-American link-up on the Elbe River at the end of World War II. The memorable

link-up 43 years ago, reflected both nations' striving for friendship. It's more important than ever before for the Soviet Union and the United States to cooperate on the world scene. Moscow hopes President Reagan's forthcoming visit will take place in a spirit of mutual respect and on a realistic basis. It hopes the summit will produce concrete and broadscale [as heard] results. Mikhail Gorbachev asked George Shultz to convey that to Ronald Reagan.

Zorin on U.S.-Soviet Ties

LD260044 Moscow in English to North America 2200 GMT 25 Apr 88

["Moscow Viewpoint" by Valentin Zorin]

[Text] The recent meetings and talks in Moscow between Secretary of State Shultz and Soviet leaders indicate that Soviet-American relations are developing further. Preparations are in full swing for the coming visit by President Reagan to Moscow for a new meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev. What are the reasons behind these welcome developments? According to the recent statements by Mr Reagan and other Washington officials, the turn for the better in the bilateral relations follows a build-up of the American military muscle. That view, however, seems to be far removed from the truth.

Having spent an astronomic $2 trillion on military projects, the Reagan administration has failed to achieve military superiority over the Soviet Union. Every military build-up on the part of Washington generated a response from the Soviet Union, which took steps to restore the strategic balance. The claim that the Soviet Union was forced to seek agreement because of the American might is neither serious nor convincing. The experience of more than four decades since the end of World War II shows it's no use to speak with Moscow from a position of strength.

To my mind, there are propaganda motives behind the position of strength rhetoric coming from Washington. It's meant to help the administration court the ultra right inside the United States in the run-up to the presidential election. In my conversations with the Americans of all age groups and walks of life, I noticed a great change on the country's public mood. Today most Americans just as most Soviet people welcome the signs of improvement in the bilateral relations. The fact has been confirmed by the recent polls. It's crucial, therefore, to indicate frankly and objectively the things that help to achieve a better Soviet-American relationship.

The point is, I think, common sense has been gaining the upper hand in both Moscow and Washington. In the signing of the INF Treaty banning two classes of nuclear missiles, new political thinking prevailed. Both sides realize that continuing confrontation is dangerous and can lead them nowhere. And they have proved they can promote bilateral relations and help in solving the complex current issues if they stake on reason and goodwill, not on power.

Moscow hopes the coming Reagan-Gorbachev summit will add to the progress achieved at Geneva, Reykjavik, and Washington, and will produce new agreements to the benefit of world peace.

Solton Views Shultz Talks

LD251406 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Last week saw talks in Moscow between the Soviet foreign minister, Eduard Shevardnadze, and the U.S. secretary of state, George Shultz. Mr Shultz was also received by Mikhail Gorbachev. Radio Moscow's Yuriy Solton now discusses some of the results of the Moscow talks, and this is what he writes:

The talks highlighted both the difficulties and opportunities for achieving specific results at the Soviet-American summit in Moscow, scheduled for late May and early June. It's important that the two sides agreed they should not confine themselves to what had been achieved in Washington, where the INF Treaty eliminating intermediate- and shorter-range missiles was signed, and an agreement outlined to reduce the Soviet and American strategic offensive arms by half.

The talks in Moscow emphasized the idea that the forthcoming summit could produce tangible results. Much has been done to this end; for instance, good opportunities have been created to make rapid progress at the Geneva negotiations on strategic armaments. Although quite a few complicated problems still remain, the groundwork from which to build up, and fast, has been laid. The Soviet and American negotiators will receive specific instructions to speed up the drafting of a future treaty. In Moscow, the U.S. secretary of state was told that, as before, the Soviet Union wanted finalizing likely agreements by the time of President Reagan's visit.

Alongside this, the talks in Moscow made evident the difficulties encountered in preparing for the summit. The American leaders have lately been deliberately putting the emphasis on the power concept in relations with the Soviet Union. President Reagan and other American officials have been claiming that pressure on the Soviets can force them into concessions. Such statements are evidence of the reluctance to take into account political realities and the principle of the balance of interests. The worship of power politics is a justification of the arms race; isn't this the reason why the American delegation in Geneva is now much less active than it used to be? It must be clear that agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States will be possible only on the basis of

equality, equal security, and due regard for the interests of all sides, of all nations. It was precisely that kind of approach that led to the success of the December summit in Washington.

The forthcoming Gorbachev-Reagan meeting in Moscow will have tangible results only if these principles are complied with, writes Radio Moscow's Yuriy Solton.

Shishlin Comments on Talks

LD242146 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1400 GMT 24 Apr 88

[From the "International Panorama" program, presented by Nikolay Shishlin]

[Text] Hello, comrades! First of all, the visit to Moscow by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz. The 25th meeting of the Soviet foreign minister and the head of the U.S. foreign policy department apparently gives a clear indication that there will be yet another session between them prior to holding a summit meeting in Moscow. Circumstances do not at the moment permit saying anything more or less definite about the possible results of the talks that are to be held between the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and the President of the United States. Of course, as before, working out an agreement on a 50-percent cut in strategic offensive weapons remains in view and the diplomats in Geneva are working assiduously but is the speed of these talks—if speed is a word that can be applied to the talks at all—sufficient to obtain a final text of the treaty? I think acceleration here is simply vital, but answering whether there will be such acceleration in Geneva is unthinkable. In my view, the talks to work out additional measures for monitoring [kontrol] nuclear tests are proceeding nicely, but in giving its due to the advance in this direction, it should not be forgotten that the main aim of these talks is to obtain a total ban on nuclear tests, and the road ahead here appears a long one.

The fact that discussion of regional conflicts has become a tradition of Soviet-U.S. dialogue should be assessed positively. This is good, but at the same time we should not close our eyes to the fact that differences in the sides' approaches to settling regional conflicts are great and serious. Take, for instance, the Near East. In the Near East there are the interests—the legitimate interests—of the Arab states, the interests of Israel—and not just illegitimate ones—and the interests of the Arab people of Palestine, involved in a rightful uprising for several months now. There are the interests of the Soviet Union and the United States and other states. Therefore, there are a multitude of interests in evidence and finding a balance to these interests is extremely complex, which is why an internationalization of efforts is required and why convening an international conference is required. We are not denying the legitimacy of any interim measures in order somehow to cool down this hot spot, but working out a reasonable compromise in the Near East outside international efforts is quite simply unthinkable.

As is well known, during his stay in Moscow George Shultz met with the general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and there was a substantive and rich conversation. It seems that overall the visit of the U.S. secretary of state in itself is one more step, a small step, in developing Soviet-U.S. dialogue. Perhaps the results could have been more expressive, but let's not forget that there are only 5 weeks left to the summit meeting and there's no harm in being patient. Second, the fact itself that the Soviet-U.S. dialogue is becoming so intensive should be valued, particularly since this has all taken place over some 2 and 1/2 years. And now, within the framework of Soviet-U.S. relations—and that's the only thing one can agree with in Reagan's recent statement which was packed with a mass of dated tenets, a mass of stereotypes—is that truly, never before has there been discussion within the Soviet-U.S. dialogue of such varied problems. This is really the case. Among the problems discussed are issues of developing economic relations, although there are difficult tasks and difficult issues here.

'Top Priority' Discusses U.S.-USSR Relations

LD231525 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 22 Apr 88

["Top Priority" program, presented by Pavel Kuznetsov, with Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov]

[Text] [Kuznetsov] How do you do, ladies and gentlemen? Welcome to "Top Priority." I am Pavel Kuznetsov, your host, and together with me in the studio are Doctors Radomir Bogdanov and Sergey Plekhanov, our usual panel.

On Friday, U.S. Secretary of State Shultz concluded the Moscow leg of his visit to the Soviet Union. He has had talks with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and his Soviet counterpart, Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. And the Moscow meeting, although there will be another ministerial meeting in May on the eve of the Moscow summit, the Moscow meeting was crucial in bilateral efforts to lay the groundwork for the Moscow summit, that is the fourth such meeting between Mikhail Gorbachev and Ronald Reagan.

There are still a number of problems left, problems standing in the way, in the first place, in the way of a START accord; that is, a treaty that would cut by half Soviet and American long-range arms. There are other problems—in fact, on the eve of the visit here by George Shultz, according to some American experts there were an estimated 1,200 technical and other problems, including such issues as control and verification, then the very sticky point involving sea-launched cruise missiles, strategic bombers, and the like.

I would like you, gentlemen, to start the program by assessing the state of Soviet-American relations at this time, after the Shultz visit. Dr Bogdanov?

[Bogdanov] I believe, Pavel, that you did it already. You just mentioned that a fourth summit meeting is going to happen. Let me add to that, that was the 26th meeting between secretary of state and foreign minister of the Soviet Union within 3 years, mind you.

[Kuznetsov] Twenty-sixth or 25th?

[Bogdanov] My calculation is 26.

[Kuznetsov] All right.

[Bogdanov] I mean to say that never before in the post-World War II history, Soviet-American relations had such intense, if you like, exchange of high summit meetings, foreign minister meetings, and I should say that that's not in vain. It produces its results.

[Kuznetsov] Like?

[Bogdanov] Like INF Treaty. I wouldn't like to sound, say banalities, you know, I believe our American listeners know that themselves. And let me just mention INF Treaty, some other agreements and, of course, a great wave of human contacts and exchange between USSR and United States which is, to my mind, maybe more important than something else. Because we start for the first time to dismantle the image of the enemy in our relations.

Let me come back to your question. For the first time in the history of our relations they are going to destroy 50 percent of strategic weapons, which were looked upon as a main stalwart in our deterrence now. If you look at the American side I would, my view is that now American side is as worried psychologically with 50 percent cuts as we are. So the difficulties that we are facing now in our relations, technical difficulties, I would not mind very much about them. I believe that we will overcome them. I just would like to say that with that perspective, of 50 percent cuts, each side is trying to make out such a treaty that would not worry the other side about the possible consequences of that cut. That's why we are facing all these difficulties. And I would look at that from the other...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Now let me say something about political problems. I mean, psychological and technical problems. And psychologically, for instance, that's for me a very clear-cut signal this is a very serious treaty, very serious treaty. If you spent so much time on technicalities, trying to work out a very solid treaty, it means it's serious. Now, as to the political difficulties—let me state it very clearly, as to our side we have no political difficulties with the treaty. We are for that and we have no opposition. Maybe, maybe we have some quarters in this country that...

[Plekhanov, interrupting] (?They have) doubts and doubts and questions.

[Bogdanov] (?They have) worries, doubts and questions.

[Plekhanov] But that's not opposition.

[Bogdanov] But I'm afraid that our American counterparts may have political difficulties. And what do I mean by that? That if you look at the political base of this administration, you may very clearly pick up quarters not only (?who are) opposed to that treaty, but they are in principle opposed to any arms control deals and any relations with the Soviet Union. So my impression is, rightly or wrongly, I don't know whether Sergey or you will agree with me, but my impression is that the opposition to the President Reagan and Secretary of State Shultz policy of striking deals in arms control with the Soviet Union is stiffening, stiffening. And they are becoming more and more active, paralyzing this administration, I mean in making constraints for this administration. I mean to say that if it were not the suposition, maybe the administration could take (?trusting) decisions, more comprehensive decisions. That's what I mean by political difficulties.

[Kuznetsov] Okay. My question to you, Dr Plekhanov. We've been talking for some time about technical and political difficulties: What is your reaction to a couple of ideas that I have to offer to you? Take the INF Treaty: There has been a snag in the sense that the Senate is reported to be in no hurry to ratify it, because they would like a clear commitment from Moscow, as they put it, to ban medium-range futuristic weapons. And President Reagan, speaking in Springfield, Massachussets, actually on the day when U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz flew into Moscow, he said that he is concerned that the failure by the Senate to ratify the INF Treaty will put a strain on the further development of Soviet-American relations. And another point, speaking about political difficulties. Take the sea-launched cruise missiles—I think some time ago we invited the American side to carry out a technical test to see whether it was possible to tell a nuclear-tipped cruise missile from its conventional look-alike, or conventional counterpart. And our scientists said they had developed some kind of technology to do that. But the American side has declined our offer, because supposedly they have, they believe they have a lead in this kind of weapon so they are dragging their feet on that. Is this technical, or political, or...

[Plekhanov, interrupting] I think it's political [words indistinct].

[Kuznetsov] [Words indistinct] SDI.

[Plekhanov] It's entirely political. I quite agree with Dr Bogdanov that the opposition to arms reduction process is stiffening in the United States, and there are powerful forces which are throwing spanners in the works. And one example is the senatorial reaction. I must say that I was concerned and even somewhat offended by a remark made by Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd when he said: Well, you know, we don't care about whether we

will complete the ratification before the summit meeting or not. I understand, of course, that senators are concerned about the prerogatives of the Senate...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] (?This is the) Democrats.

[Plekhanov] They are Democrats, there are partisan differences. But I mean when people play politics with such life and death issues...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Now that is America!

[Plekhanov] It has, we've seen it many times, we've seen it many times. But each time when you see it happening again you can't help but wondering what these people are up to.

[Bogdanov] You're a professional in that field. For how many years you have been working with Americans? And you're still puzzled!

[Plekhanov] Every time I'm puzzled, because, you know, it's, I mean they must learn at some point. But I would like to repeat that these, the sources of these new found difficulties are political. People invent technical problems or blow out of all proportion technical problems because they have political objections to the idea that strategic weapons should be cut by half, that the disarmament process must go on, and so forth. As far as the issue of SLCM's is concerned, there is another new-found snag. The issue of verification there is, of course, very important, because you must be able to be reasonably sure that the other side is not cheating and complying with the numbers on the sea-launched cruise missiles. Now, you must be able to verify that. Now, one thing, one way is to do it technologically, and we have offered Americans to see the tests of such technology, which would allow each side to be reasonably certain. They said no, no, no, we're not interested in that. We offered another idea—let's have observers on board ships of each other. Then they said no, no, no. Then the Navy started raising objections, saying that, well—the U.S. Navy, I mean—saying, well, you know, we can't let the Russians on board our ships. Well, you know, there is a saying: If there is a will there is a way. But if there is no will, there is no way.

[Bogdanov] I believe that is very interesting point, verification. What do I mean by that? We have no problem with verification.

[Plekhanov] We have no problem.

[Kuznetsov] You mean political problems?

[Bogdanov] Not political, not technical, neither.

[Plekhanov] We have done away with the hangups that we have had about being open in that area. We are prepared to be open. But the American side...

[Bogdanov, interrupting] Yeah, and now verification is not our problem. This is rather American problem. What do I mean by that? You have two groups of people now in the American political spectrum, in the Congress and everywhere. One is for all-out verification. They are ready to accept, not only accept what we suggest, but to suggest something else. But there is another group which belongs to rather what we call a military-industrial complex, something like that. They hate to open their facilities, defense facilities for Soviet inspectors. And they are fighting among themselves. They are not fighting with the Americans [as heard]. That's what constrains the decision-making in Geneva by the American delegation, what's happening back home.

[Kurnetsov] Yes, domestic in-fighting.

[Bogdanov] And my point is that, let them first strike a deal among themselves, then to deliver something on the table in Geneva. That's very interesting, that's never been the case in the Soviet-American relations. You see how things have changed?

[Kuznetsov] Gentlemen, another important area is SDI—we have mentioned it briefly—I understand that our position has not changed in the sense that we still believe that both sides have to honor the ABM Treaty the way it was signed and interpreted back in 1972. As far as I understand, the United States would like to get our agreement on the creation of certain zones or areas in space where they could carry out all kinds of testing of space weapons, and perhaps set a quota on the number of such tests. But is this also a bone of contention, an area where we (?have) disagreements?

[Plekhanov] I've seen reports in the American media about this idea and I must say that it's far too technical, I don't know what the experts would say of that, I haven't seen any expert discussion and I'm not sure whether it's been discussed at the official level or not.

[Kuznetsov] But politically they would like to go on with the arms race, only on a qualitatively new level, I understand.

[Plekhanov] Right. The issue is whether we keep the ABM Treaty or we let it be destroyed.

[Bogdanov] That's what's really important.

[Plekhanov] And we do want to keep it.

[Bogdanov] Let's explain it to our listeners at the American end. The SDI is not our problem, this is American problem. And SDI is not a subject of discussions at the Geneva talks. Forget about it! What is really in issue is, as Sergey put it, ABM Treaty. We care about that treaty, that that treaty is still for the mutually agreed period of time in force, and you have some obligations, both sides, that you will stay within that treaty. All the technicalities, to my mind, if you take a principled decision that

the treaty is okay and you will stay within that treaty, all the technicalities can be solved very easily. And I believe the American problems is just that problem, that they still are discussing among themselves what to do with the ABM Treaty.

[Kuznetsov] Talking to, speaking before the World Affairs Council of Western Massachussetts in Springfield, President Reagan singled out four basic problems, namely arms control, human rights, cultural exchanges, and regional conflicts; that is his agenda that he is supposedly going to take to Moscow when he meets with General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev. And as far as regional conflicts are concerned, in my view the focus in recent days has shifted somewhat from Afghanistan to the Persian Gulf, where the U.S. Navy recently destroyed two Iranian oil platforms and also sank and damaged several Iranian vessels. That was in retaliation for the resumption of mining of the Persian Gulf, where an American naval vessel had hit a mine. Now, speaking of regional conflicts, how serious is the American involvement in the Persian Gulf?

[Plekhanov] It's a very serious situation. I believe it has something of a quicksand quality to it. There are so many U.S. naval ships out there, and there are so many Iranians with fire in their bellies trying to shoot at one of those ships, and both sides are actually playing with fire over there.

[Kuznetsov] (?Is it only) a local war, or what?

[Plekhanov] It's a regional war, it's a regional war, and if the United States chooses to get involved deeper into that conflict I'm afraid it might have very, very serious repercussions. And the thing that really worries me is that nobody seems to have some kind of a clear scenario in Washington as to what they will do next. And that reminds me of Vietnam, where there was a similar situation, where people thought that they would use a little bit more force, a little bit more fire at this particular stage, and that will take care of the problem. And that would not take care of the problem, and then they would go to the next stage and then the next and, you know, as Pete Seeger sang in his famous song, "Waist-deep and big muddy." Now, of course, the situation is nowhere near the one that existed in Vietnam in'65, but I think that there are some similarities which worry people very much.

[Kuznetsov] As time is running out on us I'd like to sum up today's program by referring our listeners to what General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev has singled out as very important, (?so has) Secretary Shultz. The general secretary has called for a radical perestroyka or restructuring in Soviet-American relations. A narrow, pragmatic approach tends to make matters worse. We should move away from confrontation, be it human rights or other issues, to a constructive dialogue. A confrontational atmosphere on human rights, Mikhail Gorbachev underlined, could create a situation when we wouldn't be able to achieve anything. There has to be respect on each side for the interests of the other. In other words, there's got to be respect, not disdain, for the balance of interests. The Soviet Union is prepared to sign all the documents that are being worked out now by the time President Reagan comes to Moscow, where he will receive a welcome worthy of the leader of such a great nation as the United States.

Thank you very much, Drs Bogdanov and Plekhanov. That was "Top Priority" and I'm Pavel Kuznetsov, your host, signing off. Goodbye till next week, and thanks for being with us all this time.

Levin Comments on Forthcoming Summit Meeting

LD232233 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2045 GMT 23 Apr 88

[From the "International Diary" program, presented by Viktor Levin]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The visit to the USSR by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz ends today.

As you already know, he had a total of 9 hours of talks with Eduard Ambrosiyevich Shevardnadze, minister of foreign affairs of the Soviet Union, on Thursday and Friday. There was also a meeting between Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and the head of the U.S. foreign policy department. It lasted for 3 hours. After his talks in Moscow, Shultz visited Kiev and then went to Tbilisi.

You already know about Comrade Gorbachev's conversation with Shultz, and the secretary of state's talks with the minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, but I would nevertheless like to note that the talks were complex and dogged [upornyy]. It is very difficult to achieve progress in the solution of the problems on the agenda, although—and this is very important—there is some movement.

The primary question is the preparation of the Soviet-U.S. summit meeting. The main measures connected with the holding of the upcoming meeting, including the program of the visit, have already been agreed in principle. But it is not yet possible to give an answer to the key question: Will an agreement on a 50 percent cut in strategic offensive weapons be signed during this meeting? Work is continuing, and the difficulties on its path are very great. For the treaty to be prepared, it is essential to untie five knots, as Comrade Shevardnadze said. I will remind you: The first knot is abiding by the ABM Treaty for the agreed period; the second is sea-based cruise missiles; the third is air-based cruise missiles; the fourth is mobile intercontinental ballistic missiles; and the fifth is inspection [proverka] and verification [kontrol] as a whole. These are the so-called knots. Each one of them can become a stumbling block. There is an intensive search going on as how to untie

them, but so far, as the Soviet minister of foreign affairs remarked, we have not found the right key to the problem, but it has become much clearer to us what kind of key it must be.

As you know, before President Reagan's arrival in Moscow—the visit begins on 29 May—Eduard Ambrosiyevich Shevardnadze and George Shultz will meet yet again. It would be very nice to hope that they will manage to untie all the knots, but even if this doesn't happen, work on the preparation of a treaty on the 50 percent cut in strategic offensive weapons will not stop. The very visit of President Reagan to Moscow could—and we are counting on this—contribute to the development of Soviet-U.S. relations as a whole.

More on U.S. Gulf Plans, Reagan 'Threats'

LD251131 Moscow TASS in English 1115 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 25 TASS—The U.S. top brass have reaffirmed the recent press reports that the Defence Department is examining plans to step up the U.S. naval presence in the Persian Gulf.

Speaking on different TV programs on Sunday U.S. Secretary of Defense Frank Carlucci and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral William Crowe pointed out the possibility of the dispatch of ships of the Coast Guards to the Persian Gulf. As W. Crowe noted these ships are vary much "fit" for the operations being carried out by the U.S. naval force in the Persian Gulf. The U.S. secretary of defence said in his turn that the Coast Guard ships will ensure for the U.S. naval force in the Persian Gulf "greater flexibility". They have better opportunities for patrolling, which will free our big ships for other missions.

In the opinion of military experts, the small and highly manoeuvrable Coast Guard ships can be used for escorting merchant ships and for preventing the mining of shipping lanes. They may also guard oil platforms off the coast from attacks by speedboats.

According to the CBS TV company, the strike aircraft carrier Forrestal has left the U.S. naval base in Florida state today for the Persian Gulf. There are 5,000 seamen and servicemen on board the Forrestal.

They are under way to the Persian Gulf, where, as the Reagan administration made it clear, the USA would take retaliatory actions, if Iran continued attacking ships of neutral nations, the TV company said. despite the fact that the U.S. Congress advocates a more aggressive policy in the Persian Gulf, there is an apprehension that by its steps the Reagan administration somewhat anticipates public sentiments in the United States and in Western Europe. President Reagan is expected to carry on consultations with the allies.

In his Saturday address on the radio President Reagan issued threats against Iran. He claimed that the recent U.S. armed military actions in the Gulf against Iranian oil platforms and naval ships were a well-weighed answer to the resumption by Iran of mine laying and the continuing aggression against the sides not involved in the conflict. President Reagan noted that the USA does not wish a confrontation against Tehran and warned that a continuation by the Iranian leadership of its present policy in the war would cost Iran and its people a dear price.

Further on Crowe Remarks

LD242015 Moscow TASS in English 1951 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 24 TASS—U.S. Admiral William Crowe, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, has confirmed the press reports that the Pentagon is considering plans to boost U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf.

Appearing in the Face the Nation programme of the CBS television network, he said that a plan was under study to send U.S. Coast Guard vessels there. The Coast Guard has a kind of patrol boat that is appropriate for the kinds of operations the United States Navy conducts in the Persian Gulf, the admiral said.

Pentagon Spokesman Cited

LD230142 Moscow TASS in English 2210 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 23 TASS—Four U.S. warships, including the Forrestal aircraft carrier, are sailing out to new locations in the Persian Gulf, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean next week.

The squadron will also comprise the destroyers Hancock and Spruance, as well as the Elmer Montgomery frigate, Pentagon's spokesman Dan Howard said at a naval base in Mayport, Florida.

According to Howard, the movement of those ships has been planned and should not be regarded as a reinforcement of the U.S. naval forces in the above-mentioned water areas.

Pogodin Views U.S. Gulf Policy

LD251344 Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Next, Aleksandr Pogodin looks at the situation in the Gulf, where the tension has risen to new heights following fresh attacks against merchant ships and more threats to Iran from the United States, and this is what he writes:

President Reagan's address to the nation on Saturday contained the worst ever threats against Iran. These were not just words, the United States in the middle of last

week announced it was sending another 13 major warships led by an aircraft carrier to reinforce the American naval force in the Gulf. Defense Secretary Frank Carlucci, in a TV interview on Sunday, confirmed reports that plans were being drawn up for sending Coast Guard vessels to the same region. Arms experts have been quoted as saying that these vessels are most suitable for combat in coastal waters and for amphibious operations.

It's amazing that as it has threatened to use force, and promptly acted on its words, Washington has claimed that it sincerely wants to ensure the freedom of shipping in the Gulf and a stop to the Iran-Iraq war. The Americans either don't comprehend the real situation or they are simply being hypocritical. It's clear to everyone that ever since the United States started a massive naval buildup in the Gulf last summer shipping in the region has been faced with far greater risks and the number of victims of various attacks has doubled. Moreover, during the same period there has been an upsurge in fighting on the Iran-Iraq front and heavier missile exchanges in the war of the cities.

Greater American military presence has failed to bring about any change for the better whatsoever. On the contrary, what the United States has been doing has become an obstacle in the way of a peace settlement of the Iran-Iraq conflict. American actions have also seriously interfered with concerted peace efforts of the United Nations secretary general and the Security Council, and all this is fraught with the risk that tension in the region will continue to grow and get out of control.

Pentagon 'Experts' Suggest SDI Deployment Cut
LD252000 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 25 TASS—TASS correspondent I. Ignatyev reports:

A group of Pentagon experts submitted to the U.S. Secretary of Defence Frank Carlucci a report containing a recommendation to cut substantially the initial deployment of anti-missile defences developed under the "Star Wars" programme.

Today's WASHINGTON POST with a reference to Pentagon officials reports that a high-level panel directed by Robert Everett, chairman of the Pentagon's scientific advisory group, that on Carlucci's directive assessed prospects for SDI program, recommended a sharp cut in the proposed initial deployment of "Star Wars" anti-missile defences from a system of space-based weaponry to a less costly and much less effective system of ground-based rockets.

THE WASHINGTON POST writes the panel report [as received], completed a week ago, said a system of ground-based anti-missile rockets could be deployed sooner and easier than the more ambitious system of hundreds of weapons now planned for SDI's initial phase. According to the newspaper some Pentagon officials assumed that it would be easier to sell to the Congress such a restricted plan for the deployment of "Star Wars" anti-missile defences and get the necessary appropriations.

The appearance of reports about such recommendations made by scientific advisory group headed by Robert Everett was assessed by many observers as an evidence of that fact that the Reagan administration has to cut the SDI programme as it is not feasible in its initial form. But Defence Secretary Frank Carlucci, speaking Sunday in the ABC Television network programme tried in every way to protect the SDI. He asserted that the panel of "technicians and engineers" has told him that a militarily effective SDI programme could be built.

The chief of the Pentagon prefered not to go into details and not to comment on the essence of the report prepared by Congress' Office of Technology assessment of which THE WASHINGTON POST reported. The newspaper says a congressional study's assessment is that space-based defences could "suffer a catastrophic failure". Carlucci only said that THE WASHINGTON Post took excerpts from the report which had not been officially published and had drawn conclusions from it.

USIA Conference: Grounds for 'Satisfaction'
LD230823 Moscow TASS in English 0727 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 23 TASS—A joint Soviet-U.S. press conference was held here in conjunction with the completion of a two-day meeting of the two countries' media executives, which was sponsored by the United States Information Agency (USIA).

"Following two days of intensive work, Soviet and, as it seemed to me, American participants have grounds to feel satisfaction", V.M. Falin, chairman of the Novosti Press Agency (APN) board, who headed the Soviet delegation, said at a press conference.

"This was the necessary meeting and in due time, the meeting which proved that a serious and constructive exchange of views between us is possible and that it yields specific results. The mutual desire that such meetings and debates be continued in the future shows that this is so. In these two days we became aware once again of the simple truth: Although we are different and go in different directions as regards many matters, we are all in one ship which is the earth. It is common duty to see to it that our ship kept sailing without getting in distress. But we will achieve this only on one condition - if we have the desire and readiness to have enough patience to listen to each other, enough will to understand each other".

"It seemed to me that in these two days we were guided exactly by this rule", Falin went on. "I want us to preserve the key for a better understanding of each other,

found by us, not to lose it on different crossroads, in various situations through which we are still to go. And if we succeed in this, we will understand each other better tomorrow than we do today".

Charles Wick, USIA director, said that this was the first meeting designed to discuss ways to broaden the exchange of information between our countries, ways to shed the wrong understanding of each other, false notion of each other. He said the journalists discussed the whole range of issues related to information and mass media, including the differences between them in our coutnries. They reflect the differences in our political, economic and ideological systems. The talks aimed at launching the process of the discussion of information rather than signing large agreements. However, under discussion were also many specific proposals and concrete accords were reached.

Among them was an agreement in principle to hold a film festival of ten new Soviet films in the United States and of ten new U.S. films in the USSR. The festivals will take place in ten cities of each country and will last up to ten weeks.

A contract was signed to set up a center in Moscow on June 1, 1988 where books published in the United States will be on permanent display. The sides signed a protocol on opening travelling book shows in the USSR and in the United States in September. The residents of Novosibirsk, Minsk and Tbilisi will be able to familiarize themselves with a U.S. travelling exhibition and the residents of Washington, Boston and Los Angeles - with the Soviet such show.

The journalists decided to recommend their governments taking joint steps to cut travelling restrictions for the two countries' newsmen. An understanding was reached on the study by two countries' specialists of the U.S. and Soviet mass printing media to identify stereotypes creating a wrong idea of life in the United States and the USSR. A host of other proposals was put forward. Their discussion will be continued.

FBI Report Warns Americans of Soviet Glasnost

LD210306 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 20 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast; commentary by Vadim Lobachenko]

[Text] The U.S. press has begun to carry reports referring to an FBI report which warns Americans of contacts or meetings with Soviet people. Here is our commentary:

[Lobachenko] Hello, comrades. I wish to note that the Soviet delegation whose arrival has just now alarmed the U.S. newspaper THE DIXON TELEGRAPH is not large. It just consists of three people. The nature of their professions is quite peaceful: a chairman of the city soviet of a small Siberian town, a journalist, and an interpreter. Nevertheless, the paper has published a selection of letters. Here they are in front of me, quoting an FBI report aimed at intimidating American people by saying that all Soviet visitors without exception are engaged in spreading propaganda in the United States in the form of glasnost.

A question naturally suggests itself: Who are these people that our glasnost is aimed to threaten, as it were, with a frank conversation about our problems and our country's life? Surely, all this is organically bound up with that populist diplomacy which began to develop in Soviet-U.S. relations in recent years. Their scope is growing and they are becoming ever more diverse.

Here are some examples from the recent past. At the beginning of this year, groups of scientists and public figures, artists, writers and journalists visited the United States. At the same time, within the framework of the program entitled "Getting acquainted with an average American," a group of average USSR citizens visited the United States, at the request of the U.S. side: workers, peasants, doctors, students and teachers. Both in our country and in the United States, very different people with all their faults and merits meet, talk, and get to know each other. This is how mutual understanding is born between people. It erases the hostility and suspicion of the past decades.

I wish to note that the decision on the broad Soviet-U.S. exchanges was adopted at the Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev-Ronald Reagan meeting in Geneva in 1985. Incidentally, the mayor of the town of Dixon, James Dixon, reported that hundreds of people in his town, despite the anti-Soviet utterances of the local paper, are full of enthusiasm in connection with the arrival of the Soviet guests. A positive reaction has been predominant, he said. But what about the FBI report and the new wave of anti-Soviet actions in the United States under the motto "The Russians are coming!" It seems that the American right-wingers are out of step with the overwhelming majority of Americans.

China

Moscow Radio Praises China's Disarmament Stand

OW232136 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Mandarin to Asia-Pacific Region 1300 GMT 19 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] With the signing of the INF Treaty between the Soviet Union and the United States and the progress made in their negotiations for an agreement on large-scale reductions of offensive strategic weapons, the prospect of a nuclear-free world has become more real. In this regard, the positions of certain nuclear powers which have not taken part in the negotiations merit our attention.

Everyone knows that the PRC is one of the five nuclear powers. The views of the Chinese leaders on disarmament naturally are of interest to their neighbors and other countries in the Asian-Pacific region, including the Soviet Union. China has welcomed the INF Treaty signed between the Soviet Union and the United States. For example, it reacted positively to the Soviet agreement allowing its intermediate- and short-range missiles deployed in the Asian part of the Soviet Union to be covered by the treaty. Beijing regards this step taken by the Soviet leadership as a significant manifestation of the new Soviet political thinking in its foreign policy.

On 21 March 1986, Zhao Ziyang comprehensively explained the position taken by the Chinese leadership on the question of disarmament. Its point of departure is the complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons, which is regarded as the ultimate goal of disarmament. The commitment made by the PRC not to be the first to use nuclear weapons is significant and serves as a stabilizing factor in the Asian and world situation. Beijing has appealed to all countries possessing nuclear weapons to make a similar commitment, to pledge themselves not to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear countries and nuclear-free zones or to threaten to do so, and to conclude an international treaty for this purpose. This significant appeal, obviously, is directed toward the United States, Britain, and France, since the Soviet Union has already made such a commitment and completely supports China's stand.

China supports the proposal of establishing nuclear-free zones in various parts of the world and has signed the Rarotonga Treaty and the Treaty of Tlatelolco, which respectively declare the South Pacific and Latin America to be nuclear free. China has explicitly declared that outer space should be used for peaceful purposes in the interests of mankind and has called for the signing of an international agreement prohibiting the arms race in space. Beijing believes that it is not right for Washington to attempt to make a broad interpretation of the Soviet-American ABM Treaty, saying broad interpretation of the treaty will give the green light to the militarization of outer space.

Beijing is not in favor of the participation of Japan and other countries in the U.S. SDI. For example, the Chinese press has pointed out that Japan's participation in the Star Wars program cannot but affect the military balance and the overall situation in the Asian-Pacific region and will result in new contradictions between Japan and its neighbors.

The Soviet Union and the United States account for 97 percent of the world's nuclear (?arsenals). In light of this, China believes that the Soviet Union and the United States should drastically cut down their nuclear stockpiles by taking the lead in stopping nuclear tests and ending the production and storage of nuclear weapons. China says that this will create conditions for an international conference of all nuclear powers to discuss nuclear disarmament and the total destruction of nuclear weapons. At the same time, China justly pointed out that the issue of nuclear disarmament which concerns international security should not be monopolized by a few nuclear powers and that all countries, regardless of their size and military strength, should take part in the discussion and resolution of this issue.

The PRC has taken a number of appropriate steps in recent years to show its determination for disarmament, including slashing its military expenditures, reducing its troops by 1 million, renouncing nuclear tests in the atmosphere, and reorienting its military industries toward the civilian sector. Many observers believe that, given its role in international affairs, China has yet to bring its potential into full play in world disarmament.

We must notice that China's stance on disarmament is basically identical with that taken by the Soviet Union and other socialist countries. Both the PRC and the USSR firmly believe that the ultimate goal of disarmament is to eliminate all nuclear weapons. This goal is in conformity with the program outlined by General Secretary Gorbachev on destroying all nuclear weapons on earth in stages by the year 2000 and with other Soviet proposals. The Soviet Union firmly believes that the identical stand taken by the Soviet Union and China on most of the major contemporary issues provides a good foundation for constructive cooperation in finding solutions to these issues.

Northeast Asia

Murakhovskiy Delegation Arrives in Pyongyang

LD252312 Moscow Television Service in Russian 2130 GMT 25 Apr 88

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] A Soviet delegation, headed by Comrade Murakhovskiy, has arrived in Pyongyang to take part in the 22d session of the Soviet-Korean Intergovernmental Consultative Commission on economic and scientific-technical questions. The delegation was met at the airport by Kim Pok-sin, vice premier of the DPRK Administrative Council, and other officials.

Soviet-Japanese Salmon Fishing Talks Resume

LD252250 Moscow TASS in English 1747 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The USSR will scrupulously abide by its decision gradually to halt the catch in the open sea of salmon spawning in the Soviet Union's rivers, Vyacheslav Zilanov, deputy fishery minister of the USSR, said at the fourth session of the Soviet-Japanese bilateral branch commission, that resumed its work here today. In so doing, the Soviet side is ready to advance cooperation with Japanese partners in the artificial reproduction and rational use of these fish, including in the 200-mile economic zone of the USSR, he said.

On the agenda of the session is fixing a quota for sea catch by Japanese fishermen of salmon species spawning in Soviet rivers in 1988. This issue failed to be solved during the first round of the negotiations held in Tokyo in February-March. The Japanese delegation demanded that the quota be kept unchanged and even increased, with what the Soviet side, which stated that it halted completely the catch of salmon reproduced in the USSR, could not agree.

The pernicious impact of the sea catch of salmon on their stock is admitted by almost all countries where these fish are spawned and many states banned it. For instance, under an agreement within the framework of the international organisation grouping the Atlantic countries, Atlantic salmon are caught only off shore.

Under the U.S. Law of the Sea Convention, which was signed by the USSR and Japan, the Soviet Union is held responsible for preserving Soviet river-spawned salmon and is called upon to ensure their rational utilization. The Soviet side, mindful of the interests of Japanese fishermen, agreed in recent years to the sea catch of salmon in limited amounts. Specifically, in 1987 the quota was 24,500 tonnes. A significant increase in cases when Japanese fishermen violated the fishing regulations agreed upon earlier caused serious concern among Soviet fisheries organisations.

A programme of the joint study of sea fauna in the north-western part of the Pacific Ocean for 1988 was agreed upon in Tokyo. Measures were formulated to develop economic ties between the two countries' fisheries organisations. At the session in Moscow it is supposed to discuss prospects for boosting scientific and technical cooperation in the years to come and possible measures to regulate fish catch in the Bering Sea.

Disagreement on Quotas

OW260207 Tokyo KYODO in English 0119 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 25 KYODO—Japan and the Soviet Union resumed bargaining in Moscow Monday on salmon fishing by Japanese boats in the northern Pacific this year. The annual talks to set catch quotas and terms for Japanese fishing boats had been suspended since March 14 after Japan rejected a Soviet demand to ban salmon fishing in the open sea by 1992.

In the earlier talks in Tokyo, the Soviets proposed a shorter fishing period, a cutback in the number of Japanese fishing boats and stricter supervision over their operations. They later moderated the demand for a ban on offshore fishing, calling instead for a cut of 20 percent from the actual catch for 1987. Initially they had demanded a 49 percent cutback, Japanese officials said. Japan is demanding that its fishing boats be allowed to catch 30,000 metric tons of salmon this year, while the Soviet Union wants Japan to lower its catch quota to 20,000 tons from last year's 24,500 tons, they said.

The Soviet Union may ease its harsh negotiating stance further in the Moscow talks in view of its recent diplomatic offensive to establish close trading relations with Japan and to gain access to Japan's high-technology industries, sources said. In the resumed talks, Japan is represented by Kenichi Unno, director of the fisheries agency's Oceanic Fisheries Department, while the Soviet side is headed by Vyacheslav K. Zilanov, chief of the Department of International Affairs of the Ministry of Fish Industries.

Antinuclear Parade in Yokosuka Reported

OW260803 Moscow in Japanese to Japan 1200 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Activists of antinuclear and antiwar organizations have started a march in Yokosuka City. American ships, including submarines loaded with nuclear weapons, have regularly paid port calls at Yokosuka where the largest U.S. naval base in the Far East is located. This is in violation of Japan's three non-nuclear principles and has resulted in protests by progressive organizations in Japan.

Southeast Asia & Pacific

Razumovskiy Delegation Tours Vietnam Monuments

LD260803 Moscow TASS in English 0618 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Hanoi, April 26 TASS—A CPSU delegation led by Georgiy Razumovskiy, alternate member of the Politburo and secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, today visited the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum in Hanoi and laid a wreath.

The Soviet delegation is in Vietnam at the invitation of the Central Committee of its Communist Party.

The delegation visited the house-museum of the outstanding figure of the international communist and national liberation movement and signed the visitors' book.

On the same day members of the delegation laid flowers at the monument to Vladimir I. Lenin, erected in the centre of the Vietnamese capital.

Malaysia, Vietnam Agree on Spratly Issue

PM251150 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS reports: "United in Their Opinions"]

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, 22 Apr—Malaysia and Vietnam are united in the opinion that disagreements on the question of the ownership of the Spratly archipelago in the South China Sea should be resolved between the interested countries at the negotiating table.

This commonality of opinions was revealed in the course of political consultations held here, with the participation of, on the Malaysian side, Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister Abdullah Fadzil Che Wan, and on the Vietnamese side, SRV Deputy Foreign Minister Tran Quang Co, here on a working visit.

Speaking to journalists at the end of the consultations, the Malaysian deputy foreign minister reported that in the course of the exchange of opinions, both sides came out against resolving the Spratly problem through force or by military means.

Beijing, 22 Apr—Speaking at a news conference here during her recent visit to the PRC, Philippine President C. Aquino reported that in the course of bilateral talks, an agreement was reached to set aside the disputes between the Philippines and China over the ownership of certain islands in the Spratly archipelago. It is envisaged that this problem should be resolved by peaceful means.

Near East & South Asia

Reportage on Afghan Revolution Anniversary

Najibullah on 'Shortcomings'

PM261311 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 26 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Ceremonial Meeting in Kabul: A Path Equivalent to Centuries"]

[Text] Kabul, 25 Apr—A ceremonial meeting marking the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution was held in the Afghan capital today.

The Kabul Polytechnic Insitute's assembly hall was festively decked out. The meeting's presidium comprised leaders of the Republic of Afghanistan, representatives of the public, and V.P. Orlov, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and head of the USSR state delegation that arrived here today.

The meeting was opened by Afghan Prime Minister S.'A. Keshtmand. A report was delivered by Afghan President Najibullah.

The path we have traveled in these 10 years is equivalent to centuries in terms of the profoundness of its impact on the fate of the Afghan people, the president said. Every revolution—and the April Revolution is no exception—is a complex, dialectical process.

The PDPA has since its birth, on 1 April 1965, been a party of revolutionary thought and action, armed with an advanced scientific theory of social development and capable of leading the struggle by the country's advanced forces for the ideals of democracy, progress, and national independence. History confirms that the PDPA's activity has exerted a crucial influence on the subsequent course of political struggle in our country. The party's program documents defined specific ways of eliminating poverty, medieval backwardness, and accelerating progress through the foundation of a national democratic state and in-depth reforms in the political and economic spheres. The PDPA has progressed from a small group to a 200,000-strong party.

The victory of the armed uprising in Kabul laid the foundation of the national democratic revolution. However, enemies and extreme reaction did not accept the loss of their positions in the "heart of Asia." Enormous material assets have been and continue to be consumed in the flames of an undeclared war.

Imperialist circles have invested billions of dollars, pounds, marks, and francs in escalating the military conflict, recruiting mercenaries, and arming them with the most modern means of waging war. However, neither the internal nor external enemies of the April Revolution have managed to stifle the Afghan people's desire for a free, peaceful, and happy life, to halt the progressive transformations, or to turn the land of our forbears into a bridgehead for aggression against the Soviet Union and other states of the region. Nor have they succeeded in changing the cornerstone principles of our foreign policy—neutrality and nonalignment—or isolating Afghanistan in the international arena.

By establishing principles of social justice in the country's political system, revolutionary Afghan democracy laid the foundation for a state expressing the democratic aspirations of all strata of the people and national groups in society. The republic's new constitution, adopted in 1987, is the outstanding result of the struggle of many generations for political freedoms and social progress. The interests of all strata of society and diverse nationalities and religious groups were taken into account without any discrimination in that historic document. From the standpoint of democracy, our constitution has no equal in the Islamic world.

People's power has now been established in every city and in more than half of the settlements. Local organs of power have been set up through democratic elections in all the provincial centers, 295 districts and counties, and 9,800 settlements. The elections to the National Council, held successfully throughout the country, supply graphic new evidence of the deepening of the process of democratizing the republic's political system.

The establishment of the right of political parties to form and operate within Afghan society's political system is a fundamental result of the revolution. The new constitution enshrined the multiparty model of Afghan democracy as the one most correctly reflecting Afghanistan's historical experience, the essence of our revolution, and the real disposition of political forces. In addition to the PDPA, the revolutionary organization of working people of Afghanistan, the organization of working people of Afghanistan, the peasant and Islamic parties now legally

participate in the life of our society, which makes it possible to involve new social forces in the struggle for the people's interests and enhance the stability and viability of the entire political system of society. The ranks of the Democratic Organization of Afghan Youth, the Afghan Women's Council, trade unions, and other public and political organizations are growing, as is their sense of awareness.

Afghanistan's modern armed forces have absorbed all that is best and advanced in our society: Sixty percent of all PDPA members are concentrated in the forces, which possess the latest military hardware and great experience, skilled command cadres, and courageous NCO's and enlisted men. A people's officer corps has been formed during the revolution years.

The revolution is waging a resolute literacy campaign. More than 3.5 million people have now attended literacy classes. The number of pupils at general education schools has grown to 900,000 and the system of secondary and higher education is rapidly expanding.

Books, magazines, radio, and television have become firmly embedded in the people's life and daily round.

The principles of nonalignment, the development of friendly relations with all countries, the defense of peace and security in the region and across the continent of Asia underpin the republic's foreign policy course.

Addressing shortcomings, the president noted that some of the planned socioeconomic reforms have yet to be implemented. State power, which is required to express the people's interests, has still not established itself throughout the country's territory. It is now absolutely clear that the national democratic revolution's first step—winning political power—was considerably easier than all the other steps bound up with implementing revolutionary transformations. The party and government have been unable to take full account of the country's characteristics and specific features.

The PDPA has been unable to make full use of the opportunities created by the April Revolution and has failed to expand the social base of power to the maximum. Party members have not gone out resolutely into the countryside but hidden themselves in city, provincial, district, and county centers. The party apparatus has been unable to involve the social strata, tribes, and ethnic groups, to narrow the gap between word and action, and to strengthen the new power's authority. The PDPA—the revolution's vanguard—has developed in an extremely slow and contradictory way. The processes of unification, its inner cohesion, and the forms of its work with the masses have constantly lagged behind the demands of the situation and the pace of the political struggle set by internal and international reaction.

Factional hostility, cliquishness, political and theoretical immaturity, arrogance, and unwarranted claims to leadership on the part of some people who found themselves by chance in the upper echelon led to consequences that are grave and difficult to overcome. This decreased the party's authority among the masses, caused an apolitical attitude, passivity, and pessimism to grow in the party ranks, and allowed freeloaders, who encouraged parasitical attitudes and unprincipledness, to infiltrate the leading party organs.

It is important to learn the lesson that the voice of the people must be heeded always and in all things, and their aspirations and needs carefully attended to, without trying to dupe the masses with empty verbal ploys.

The basic creative goals of the revolution in Afghanistan, Najibullah went on, have not been and cannot be achieved solely by military means. A sober account of the situation surrounding Afghanistan and the interests of the whole world revolutionary movement have led the PDPA to the conclusion that an end to the fraticidal war and the establishment of a lasting national peace in the country are the sole condition for implementing the ideals of April.

The policy of national reconciliation announced by the PDPA and people's power in the 9th year of the revolution did not originate in offices and conference halls. The new policy grew out of the realities of the present-day situation in the country. It corresponds to the people's hopes and rests at the same time on a firm theoretical foundation. The ideas of national reconciliation are thoroughly consonant with the philosophy of the new political thinking, which recognizes human life and the preservation of life on earth to be the supreme values standing above class, party, national, group, and other interests. The policy of reconciliation expressed the humanitarian principles of Islam, the historic traditions of the Afghan people, and the action program of the PDPA. In view of the internal and international conditions which have taken shape, the tasks of national reconciliation cannot be resolved in isolation. Hence there is a need for political pluralism based on the principles of the multiparty and coalition system. We see this as the main path to rapprochment and the reconciliation of the different national forces, including the opposition, on a common platform of achieving progress for the motherland.

It is from the unilateral cease-fire, the armistice with armed opposition detachments, the amnesty for prisoners, the introduction of new laws ensuring the legal basis of the armistice, the legalization of political parties, the development of coalition forms of government at the level of villages, districts, and provinces, the adoption of the constitution, the broadening of cooperation with the private sector, the revision of the principles of the land reform, and many other measures that the policy of national reconciliation was formed.

The creation of the bloc of left-wing, democratic parties, Najibullah said, was the progressive forces' important achievement in the national reconciliation process. Showing political flexibility, our government made repeated attempts to open a constructive dialogue with the leaders of the uncompromising opposition. In particular, it proposed that they open political missions in Kabul and that they participate in the formation of the parliament and the coalition government—on condition that they renounce armed forms of struggle, of course. National reconciliation in Afghanistan received broad recognition and support from progressive and democratic forces throughout the world. The very concept of national reconciliation has enriched world civilization and become part of the international community's political vocabulary. The victory of national reconciliation is the fitting contribution of our people and the April Revolution to the victory of the forces of reason and sets an example for the solution of regional conflicts in general.

Day by day the peace-making process is gathering strength and yielding positive new results. This is vividly confirmed by the elections to the National Council. Almost 1.6 million people took part in them, or around 74 percent of all the republic's enfranchised citizens. For the first time in the country's history, military servicemen voted, too. The national composition of the parliament as a whole corresponds to the basic composition of the population.

The election of a democratic parliament in place of the provisional supreme organ of power—the Revolution Council—is the most important landmark on the path of the April Revolution's development.

A complex and crucial period is now beginning in Afghanistan's life, the president noted. It will be full of important political events, in which priority will be given to the implementation of the Geneva documents on the settlement of the external aspects of the "Afghan problem."

The accords reached in Geneva are the important result of the consistent struggle by Afghanistan and the USSR for the cessation of external interference in our country's internal affairs and for the Afghan people's right to choose for themselves the social and political system which they find acceptable. This is a victory for political realism and the new political thinking in the approach to international affairs, an important consequence of the policy of national reconciliation, and a valuable example for the solution of other local conflicts. The Republic of Afghanistan's leadership will firmly fulfill the commitments arising from the Geneva documents, and it expects a similar attitude to them from the other states party to the settlement.

The most important political event of the year is the return home of the Soviet internationalist servicemen. They have performed their duty with honor and helped Afghanistan to preserve the state's sovereignty and integrity.

On the refugee problem, Najibullah noted that in order to create the conditions for their return, the government intends to examine the question of creating a demilitarized zone in the provinces on the border with Pakistan. We hope, he said, that the Islamic Republic of Pakistan will support this initiative and create a similar zone along its border.

On the foreign policy agenda, Najibullah said, are questions of the practical normalization of relations with Pakistan and the search for ways to begin the process of settling the situation on our borders with neighboring Iran. We shall also strive to develop relations with the PRC, and we want to considerably expand our ties with Islamic countries. The problems of accelerating the pace of economic development are very acute for us, and they cannot be resolved without enlisting extensive outside help. In this regard, we hope for UN support. We should like to restore and considerably increase our trade, economic, and cultural cooperation with certain developed capitalist countries. We are confident that the USSR and other countries will continue to play a leading role in ensuring Afghanistan's economic growth and international stability.

In conclusion the president greeted the foreign delegations attending the celebrations.

These days, Soviet delegation head V.P. Orlov said in his address to the ceremonial meeting, the Afghan people are celebrating their national holiday—the anniversary of the April Revolution. The first decade of the revolution is now over—a brief period historically, but a period unequaled in its significance and weight. The Afghan people are greeting their revolution's holiday in a good atmosphere. It is no exaggeration to say that the whole world breathed a sigh of relief when it received the good news about the signing of the Geneva agreements. The positive development of events in this sphere was ensured to a decisive extent by the principled and constructive foreign policy line of the Soviet Union and the Republic of Afghanistan. The 8 February Statement by M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and President Najibullah, and the joint Soviet-Afghan statement in Tashkent made it possible to bring the Afghan settlement to the stage of practical implementation and created the conditions for the Soviet troops' return home.

The proclamation and implementation of the course of national reconciliation, the Soviet delegation head noted, are the manifestation of a truly state-minded approach to the solution of nationwide tasks. The roots of the tree of Soviet-Afghan friendship are nourished by the ideas of the great Lenin, to whom we turn time and again today so as to embark on the future with greater confidence.

On behalf of the Soviet leadership, the Soviet delegation head congratulated those present on the glorious jubilee.

Defense Minister Rafi' on Fighting

PM261301 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Interview with Afghan Defense Minister Colonel General Muhammad Rafi' by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik: "For the 10th Anniversary of the April Revolution in Afghanistan. The Only Reasonable Path"; date and place of interview not specified—first paragraph is KRASNAYA ZVEZDA introduction]

[Text] Ten years ago, on 27 April 1978, to the thunder of the spring revolution, ancient Afghanistan awoke to a new life. The April revolution carried out under the leadership of the PDPA marked the beginning of fundamental political, economic, social, and cultural transformations in the country. The implementation of the policy of national reconciliation conducted by the PDPA together with other parties and all the country's patriots is a crucial stage of the revolution. It was the national reconciliation which gave a powerful impetus to the acceleration of the peaceful settlement of the situation around Afghanistan and the successful signing of the Geneva agreements. Colonel General Muhammad Rafi', defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, answered a number of questions from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Oliynik on the eve of this memorable anniversary.

[Oliynik] Comrade Colonel General, the 10th anniversary of the April revolution has coincided with a historic event—the signing of the Geneva agreements on a political settlement of the situation around Afghanistan. How is this event being appraised in the country and in the army?

[Rafi'] In the heroic and difficult annals of the April revolution, 14 April, the day when the agreements on settling the Afghan problem were signed in Geneva, will doubtless be inscribed in gold. It will enter history as one of the brightest and most joyful days which the people will describe as a festival of peace.

All strata of Afghan society and Afghan Army servicemen have received the Geneva agreements as a message heralding peace in our war-ravaged land which has suffered so much. These agreements are to put an end to the undeclared war against Afghanistan. They have cleared the way for the repatriation of refugees, they make possible the withdrawal and return home of the limited contingent of Soviet forces—which, as is known, is to begin 15 May—and they provide the Afghan people with the opportunity to determine their future destiny for themselves. The success of the Afghan-Pakistani talks in Geneva was made possible above all thanks to the farsighted, tireless peacemaking policy of M.S. Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, and our country's President Najibullah.

[Oliynik] How do you assess the military-political situation in the country after Geneva?

[Rafi'] This is a crucial moment for Afghanistan. The policy of national reconciliation implemented by the PDPA and the entire bloc of left-wing democratic forces is being further intensified. A vivid example of this is furnished by the elections to the republic's National Council, which have ended successfully and in which more than 1.5 million voters took part. People who until recently fought against each other are seeking and finding a common language for the sake of achieving a much-sought peace. Four provinces are now headed by former active opposition figures. More than 65 percent of posts in local organs of power are now occupied not by members of the PDPA but by prominent representatives of the opposition and clergy who have accepted the policy of national reconciliation.

The return of refugees from abroad continues. During the period of the implementation of the policy of reconciliation alone, 180,000 have returned to their homes. All of them had their previous property restored to them and have received free assistance. I would like to stress in particular that in order to rule out any conflict in the border area as regards returning refugees, the Government of Afghanistan has adopted the decision to withdraw border troops and certain army units from the border with Pakistan and Iran and deploy them deep inside the country. In this way we are demonstrating our readiness to freely accept throughout the border area refugees whose numbers are swelling with every passing day.

After Geneva, the government, the president of the country, and all Afghan patriots are expressing themselves with new vigor in favor of the establishment of peace. However, the opposition continues to mindlessly gamble on the force of arms and favors the continuation of the fratricidal war. This applies above all to the leaders of the "seven-member alliance" who have entrenched themselves in Peshawar and who categorically oppose reconciliation and reject the Geneva agreements. Speaking on behalf of the opposition, Gulbuddin Hikmatyar, the head of the alliance, has declared that the mujahidin [modzhakhedy] reject any agreement which does not make provision for the "replacement of the regime in Kabul" and do not accept any obligation to comply with the cease-fire. It has emerged that the opposition is hatching plans to set up its own "government" somewhere on Afghan territory. Potential locations have even been named—Konarha Province, or Khowst District. In short, the opposition continues to gamble on the continuation of the war.

[Oliynik] Does this mean that combat operations will continue on the territory of the republic in the future?

[Rafi'] For the time being, unfortunately, yes. If the armed opposition continues to shell cities and villages and commit acts of terrorism, the Afghan Army, together with units of the people's militia and operational subunits of the Ministry of State Security will, in full conformity with the relevant paragraph of the declaration on

national reconciliation in Afghanistan, be forced to conduct combat operations to eliminate their bases and armed formations and to destroy the caravans transporting weapons and munitions. Last year alone, combat operations were carried out in 65 districts of the country, including 36 without help [samostoyatelno], and 10,740 ambushes were organized along the caravan trails used for weapon deliveries. The most indicative in this respect was the "Magistral" ["Highway"] Operation, in the course of which the siege of Khowst was lifted and bread, essential goods, and fuel were delivered by convoys of trucks. I believe that the success of this operation, just as the results of other combat operations, have more than convinced many of our opponents that they cannot achieve success by military means. Nationwide reconciliation is the only sensible solution. At this crucial time for the fate of the country, it is necessary to forget past grievances and differences and to rise above preconceived ideas and prejudices. It is necessary to seek and find reasonable compromises.

[Oliynik] The leaders of the opposition and certain Western news media are currently claiming that following the withdrawal of Soviet forces from the country, the Afghan Army "will not be able to hold out even for a day." What can you say on this account?

[Rafi'] First of all, I would like to emphasize once again: We are not seeking a military, a strong-arm solution to our internal problems and questions pertaining to the future existence of our state. We favor a solution of all disputes by peaceful means to one fought out on the battlefield.

Now about the combat readiness of the Afghan Army. There is no denying, and we realize this, that after the withdrawal of the limited contingent of Soviet forces, the entire responsibility for the defense of our people's gains will have to be shouldered by the Afghan Army and all the country's Armed Forces. I personally have no doubt that the Armed Forces will staunchly defend their fatherland and reinforce their vigilance and readiness to immediately rebuff any adversary. Over the years of the undeclared war, the Afghan Army has grown in numbers and ideological and organizational strength; it has been tempered in battle and has learned great skill from the Soviet servicemen. The Army and border troop units are fully equipped with modern combat hardware which enables them as a whole to successfully resolve combat tasks on their own and to protect industrial centers and communications.

I would like to avail myself of this opportunity to express sincere gratitude to the Soviet Government and to all Soviet people for their fraternal assistance in strengthening the combat capability of the Afghan Army and their active support for the processes of national reconciliation in our country. And I would like to express special gratitude to the internationalist servicemen from the limited contingent of Soviet forces who were at our side during the most difficult days of our history and fought at the most difficult sectors for the sake of the Afghan people's happy and peaceful future. Our people are bidding farewell to the internationalist servicemen with a feeling of fraternal gratitude and profound respect. Their internationalist feat will live on forever in the memory of the Afghan people.

Foreign Support for Accords

LD251821 Moscow TASS in English 1659 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—TASS political news analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

In two-days time, the Republic of Afghanistan will embark on the second decade of its existence since the April revolution. These years were not easy for Afghanistan, and not only for the reason that everything new usually emerges painfully. The forces of internal and external reaction that refused to accept changes in Afghanistan and rallied to unleash a bloody undeclared war against that country put obstacles to the establishment of new ways with which the Afghans linked their hopes for a better, peaceful and happy life.

An event that kindled these hopes took place on the eve of this anniversary.

The agreements on a political settlement regarding Afghanistan were signed in Geneva on April 14. They create the conditions for an end to any interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs, pave the road for peace on Afghan soil, for the elimination of one of the long-drawn out and extremely painful regional conflicts. Justifiably the Afghan people describe that day as the day of peace. President Najibullah said that that day will remain in Afghanistan's history alongside other most important historic events. He described it as the day of a triumph for new political thinking.

The Geneva accords on Afghanistan have indeed become the victory for new political thinking, a result, above all, of the consistent efforts taken with determination by the Soviet Union and Afghanistan to sign the accords. They were largely promoted by the policy of national reconciliation, the course of President Najibullah aimed at overcoming prejudice and distrust, at national accord and rallying of all the strata of society in the name of the revival of neutral, nonaligned Afghanistan. This course suits not only the interests of Afghans, but also the interests of their neighbors, of the entire world community interested in the cooling of "hot spots" on the globe and untying all the knots of regional conflicts.

Many countries welcomed the successful conclusion of the Geneva process viewing it as an example of peaceful solution of regional conflicts. India's Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi declared for noninterference in Afghanistan's internal affairs. He expressed the confidence that the Afghan people will independently resolve its

problems. We hold that stability in Afghanistan is of extreme importance for the whole region, also for India, he said. Indonesia's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ali Alatas expressed the hope that the implementation of the accords achieved in Geneva will have a positive effect on the efforts to normalise the situation in south and west Asia. Welcoming independent nonaligned Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry of Oman said that such developments will have a beneficial effect on the situation in the Persian Gulf and will possibly contribute to ending the Iran-Iraq conflict.

The signing of the Geneva accords, naturally, does not guarantee the automatic onslaught of peace in Afghanistan. The most extremist circles of the Afghan opposition, taking advantage of Washington's overt and covert assistance and support, are not going to lay down arms. They proclaim the intention to continue the fratricidal war "to the victorious end." Therefore it is not accidental that many countries now demand that all possible acts of interference in Afghanistan's affairs be blocked. They have a most responsible attitude to the fulfilment of the Geneva agreements. This is necessary so that Afghans could be able to decide their destiny and resolve their problems, including such a difficult problem as the return of refugees and their settlement on native land.

Progress of Afghan 'Reconciliation' Process
LD251937 Moscow TASS in English 1457 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Kabul April 25 TASS—Our people, who suffered great losses in human life and material damage during the war, are in a bad need of peaceful life. Therefore we ardently welcome any steps aimed at ensuring durable, stable peace in Afghanistan. A statement to this effect was made in a BAKHTAR agency interview by Muhammad Ismail Shasmiyar, a participant in the conference held in Kabul the other day of Afghan, American and Soviet public on Afghanistan-related issues. We are confident, he continued, that the situation in Afghanistan will soon return to normal and then our people will direct all efforts at restoring the war-ravaged national economy.

Since the announcement of the national reconciliation policy, more than 500 persons, who returned home from abroad, have been registered in the Third District of the Afghan capital. All the repatriates get, apart from the necessary aid, also guaranteed jobs. Thus, for example, in the same district of Kabul, the BAHKHTAR agency said, four persons hold key posts at government institutions and 73 Afghans continue their training at Kabul's institutions of higher learning. These figures indicate that those who return home enjoy all rights secured for them by the Constitution of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Yet opposition armed units from among extremists are trying to foil the process of national reconciliation, to prevent the Afghans from building a new society. The Afghan Army actively supported by the local population gives them a worthy rebuff. According to a BAKHTAR agency report, as a result of a successful operation, a group of extremists was destroyed in Loghar Province. Among the captured weapons are two anti-aircraft guns, 124 projectiles, three recoilless guns, 59 surface-to-surface missiles, 1,390 mines of various types, more than a ton of explosives and other weapons and ammunition.

Kurds Stage Anti-Iraq Demonstration in Moscow
AU261253 Paris AFP in English 1248 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Excerpt] Moscow, April 26 (AFP)—About 50 Kurdish students, mainly Iraqi and Syrian nationals, demonstrated Tuesday on Moscow's Red Square, shouting anti-Iraqi slogans, Western correspondents reported. The demonstrators, some of whom shouted "Death to (Iraqi President) Saddam Husayn", were protesting against last month's use of chemical weapons, allegedly by Iraqi warplanes, in an attack on Halabja, in Iraqi Kurdistan. After about an hour, the students, who had tried to walk to the Iraqi Embassy, dispersed after police threatened to intervene, correspondents said. Police also stood by as the demonstrators gathered outside the cathedral of Saint Basil's Cathedral. They distributed pamphlets condemning Iraq's "policy of genocide" against the population of Halabja, which they said had killed about 1,000 people. [passage omitted]

Iranian 'Warmongering Circles' See Soviet Threat
NC261033 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Persian to Iran 1530 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Islamic Republic's mass media is exacerbating the tension in the country and terrifying the people by propounding one dangerous threat after the other. For example, they (?allege that the Soviet Union) is, hand-in-hand with the United States, involved in coordinated efforts to destroy the Islamic Republic. Moreover, they spread lies alleging that Iran is now a target of hostile actions agreed to by the Soviet Union and the United States. The gentlemen of the mass media are calculating that the Iranians can be more easily misled in view of the exacerbation of the situation in the Persian Gulf and the intensification of battles on the fronts. But anyone of sound mind can easily discern that all these threats are simply (?fabrications). Iraq has twice announced recently, that it is ready to halt the war provided [words indistinct] a positive response is received from Tehran. On 8 April, during the Majlis [word indistinct] elections in Iran, Baghdad stopped the missile war unilaterally. During the past few days, Iraq once again proposed reconciliation to Iran, but this proposal was rejected.

In short, there clearly is no sufficient proof to condemn Iraq [words indistinct] Washington on joint military actions against Iran. To the same extent, the allegations of a Moscow-Washington plot are baseless. Those who spread such rumors rely on reports by some Western

newspapers that allege that the U.S. Administration informed the Soviet Union of the anti-Iranian acts by the U.S. warships in the Persian Gulf. But there is not one iota of truth in this. A spokesman for the Soviet Foreign Ministry has categorically refuted this report, (?pointing out) that the attack by the U.S. warships on the Iranian oil platforms (?has exacerbated the already explosive) situation in this part of the world.

The recent situation around Iran is truly very [words indistinct]. However, the key to relieving the tension is in Tehran, not someplace (?outside) Iranian borders. It would be sufficient for the Iranians to agree to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 598 to get the situation on a positive path.

Despite this, certain circles in Tehran do not favor such a trend. Why? Why are they terrifying the Iranians with imaginary threats, diverting their attention from the truth? Why are they fanning the flames of war hysteria in the country?

Many observers find the answers to these questions in the confrontation between two trends in Iran's political life. The pattern of this confrontation can be seen in how the issue of the war is assessed. Those who support the continuation of the war are extremely worried about the Iranians' [word indistinct] to warmongering slogans and over the growth of an (?anti-war) feeling. These people (?fear) that during the next round of Majlis elections, which will take place in [word indistinct], the opponents of war will reject those candidates [words indistinct] who are supported by the warmongering circles. This is why they seek newer and newer foreign threats. This is why they are pounding the war drums more and more strongly.

Apparently certain factions have emerged in Iran who benefit from war. These people pocket benefits from military orders and from the disintegration of the economy, at a time when the majority of the Iranians are living in poverty and deprivation. Each year thousands of Iranians are killed during (?useless) offensives on the fronts.

There is only one way to overcome this situation, and that is by immediately ending the Iran-Iraq war and seeking a just and respectable peace for both sides through negotiations.

Commentary on 'Arafat Visit to Syria

LD252115 Moscow International Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 Apr 88

[From the "Window on the Arab World" program, presented by Aleksey Zlatorunskiy]

[Excerpt] I would like, first of all, to draw the attention of our listeners to a matter which, in my opinion, has great importance in unifying the ranks of the Arabs. I mean the visit of Yasir 'Arafat to Syria. Relations between Syria and a part of the leadership of the PLO have not been at their best for 5 years. The disagreements, of a tactical nature, which arose in 1983 had a very bad effect on the two sides because they weakened the unified front of the Arab national liberation movement. This pleased Israel and its American protectors.

It is well known that Syria, a frontline country, occupies one of the first places in the fight for a comprehensive and just settlement in the Middle East. It is continuously working for the settlement of the Israeli-Arab conflict through the convening of an international peace conference under the patronage of the United Nations, and with the participation of all the sides concerned. It is natural that the development of comprehensive cooperation with Syria consolidates the PLO and the Palestinian resistance movement in general. The Syrian people will also find in the Palestinian resistance movement, including the PLO, a faithful ally in the struggle for the removal of the traces of the Israeli aggression.

I am sure that no tactical disagreements will be able to harm the one and central objective shared by the Syrians and the Palestinians. From this point of view, Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Syria, although it took place on the sad occasion of the killing and the burial of the loyal son of the Palestinian people, Abu Jihad [Khalid al-Wazir], is a very important event for all the Arab countries. [passage omitted]

Solidarity Committee Deplores Abu Jihad Death

PM251155 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Morning Edition p4

[TASS report: "Decisive Condemnation"]

[Text] Soviet people have received the news of the foul murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir], a prominent figure in the Palestinian Resistance Movement, deputy commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution's forces, and member of the Fatah Central Committee, with a feeling of profound indignation and resolute condemnation. This is stated in a message from the Soviet Committee for Solidarity with Asian and African Countries sent to Y. 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

Our country, the message said, knew Abu Jihad well as an ardent Palestinian patriot and a steadfast fighter against the Israeli occupation and for the fulfillment of the Palestinian Arab people's national aspirations, and as an advocate of developing and strengthening Palestinian-Soviet friendship.

Genocide, terror, and repression against the innocent inhabitants of the occupied territories and the physical elimination of leading PLO figures have been elevated by Israel's ruling Zionist clique to the rank of state policy, which pursues the aim of breaking the will of the Palestinian Arab people. It is also obvious that these actions by Israel would not be possible without overt

encouragement from the "self-styled defender of rights"—Washington, the patron and inspiration for Tel Aviv's bellicose, chauvinist policy.

The terrorist action carried out by Israel in Tunis is fresh evidence of the unceasing attempts by those opposed to peacefully solving the Arab-Israeli conflict to still further exacerbate the situation in the region and cancel out all efforts to achieve a just, comprehensive Near East settlement, the document emphasizes.

Israeli Death Sentence for Demjanjuk Reported

LD251454 Moscow TASS in English 1449 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 25 TASS—In Israel Ivan Demjanjuk who had been called "Ivan the Terrible" during the Second World War for heinous tortures and mass killings of inmates in the Treblinka concentration camp (Poland) was sentenced today to death by hanging, reports the AP agency from Jerusalem. Quoting the words of the sentence, the agency reports that Demjanjuk "with his own hands killed tens of thousands with cruelty".

In this case justice has triumphed: The butcher received his due. It is worth only noting that the trial of the Nazi criminal was held in a country whose soldiers also shoot in cold blood today innocent Palestinian population, as the Nazis destroyed Jews in the past.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Departs Egypt

NC260622 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2200 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Cairo, 25 Apr (MENA)—Nikolay Mikhail Gribkov, chief of the Egypt Department at the Soviet Foreign Ministry, and Viktor Kuznetsov, deputy chief of the Near Eastern and North African Countries Administration at the Soviet Foreign Ministry [names as received], and their accompanying delegation left Cairo tonight after a 1-week visit to Egypt.

The delegation's visit is one of the periodic visits made to inspect the progress of work at Soviet embassies in the region.

Libyan, Soviet Institutes Sign Cooperation Pact

LD251452 Moscow TASS in English 1052 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Tripoli April 25 TASS—An agreement on cooperation between the Institute of African Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences and the Scientific Centre for the Study of the Libyan People's Struggle Against the Italian Colonialists, has been signed here.

The document envisages a joint study of problems facing the peoples of the African continent, and exchanges of delegations and scientific information.

The agreement was signed by Alexey Vasilyev, deputy director of the institute, and by Habib Hasnaui [name as received], deputy director of the scientific centre.

PDRY Envoy Presents Skyjacking Document

PM251349 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 20 April A.'A. 'Abd al-Ilah, ambassador of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY] to the USSR, deposited with the USSR Government the document on the PDRY's accession to the convention on combating the illegal seizure of aircraft of 16 December 1970.

East Europe

Vorotnikov Begins Belgrade Visit 24 Apr

LD241047 Moscow TASS international Service in Russian 0953 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade, 24 Apr (TASS)—Vitaliy Vorotnikov, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and RSFSR Council of Ministers chairman, arrived here today at the invitation of the Governments of the Socialist Republic of Serbia and the Socialist Republic of Montenegro. He was met at the airport by Desimir Jevtic, president of the Republic Executive Council of the Socialist Republic of Serbia; Zoran Sokolovic, secretary of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Serbia; and other officials. V.F. Maltsev, USSR ambassador to the SFRY, was among the welcoming party.

Statement to Journalists

LD241500 Moscow TASS in English 1444 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade April 24 TASS—Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, who arrived here today on the invitation of the Government of the Socialist Republic of Serbia and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Montenegro, made a statement for representatives of the Yugoslav press, radio and television.

He said that the visit is taking place against a very good backdrop of the results of the recent official friendly visit to Yugoslavia of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. "That visit, the meetings and conversations with Yugoslavia's leaders, and the adopted Soviet-Yugoslav declaration created auspicious pre-conditions for a further development of multifarious ties between the USSR and Yugoslavia, raised our relations to higher levels of cooperation in all areas,

forged the atmosphere of confidence and mutual understanding between the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia. At the coming meetings and talks we will aspire to put into practice the understandings reached during Mikhail Gorbachev's visit."

"Peace is especially dear to the peoples of the two countries, who sustained the heavy burden of war and, therefore, they pay particular attention to the problems of promoting international peace and security, arresting the arms race, and the practical process of nuclear disarmament, which has gone under way," Vorotnikov said.

Talks With Serbian Official

PM251543 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 25 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Friendly Visit"]

[Text] Belgrade April 24—Official talks between Vitaliy Vorotnikov, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, and Desimir Jevtic, president of the Executive Council of Serbia's Assembly, opened this afternoon.

The sides noted with satisfaction a successful development of the relations of friendship and cooperation between the USSR and Yugoslavia, and confirmed the determination to go ahead with consolidating and extending them on the basis of the principles and understandings formulated in the joint documents adopted upon the results of the summit meetings.

They emphasized that the CPSU and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) praised the importance of the official friendly visit to Yugoslavia by CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev, the adopted Soviet-Yugoslav decalration, and the Long-Term Program for Economic Cooperation Between the USSR and Yugoslavia Through the Year 2000. Gorbachev's visit gave a fresh impetus to the relations between the two countries and parties. They are becoming truly cordial and fraternal their friendly character is deepening, which is in the two countries' interests.

During the talks the sides noted with satisfaction that the coincidence and community of many of the positions of the Soviet Union and Yugoslavia in the foreign policy field were identical.

Much attention was paid to the discussion of the issues pertaining to the state of friendly ties between the Russian Federation and Serbia, prospects for their further development within the framework of Soviet-Yugoslav cooperation. It was noted that interaction between the two republics constituted a wide and permanently developing range of fruitful ties in a variety of areas. the program of cooperation between the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republics and Serbia had an important role to play in this interaction.

The sides underscored the expediency of advancing relations on a long-term basis using on a wide scale such promising forms of cooperation as shared production and specialization, launching joint business ventures, developing direct production links, joint capital investments and development of new technological processes.

Vitaliy Vorotnikov said how the working people of the Russian Federation, of the entire country were accomplishing major tasks to reshape life in Soviet society. Under CPSU guidance, they work selflessly to translate into action the decisions of the 27th party congress and the subsequent plenary meetings of the CPSU Central Committee to expedite the Soviet Union's socioeconomic advancement.

He informed Desimir Jevtic about progress in restructuring and about the process of democratization in Soviet society. Key questions of restructuring and the experience gained by it will be reflected at the upcoming 19th All-Union CPSU Conference. The conference will give center stage to questions of refining the political structure and enhancing the role of the Soviets of People's Deputies.

Desimir Jevtic informed the guests about the work being carried out by the working people of Yugoslavia and Serbia to implement the decisions of the 13th LCY Congress and the 10th Congress of the League of Communists of Serbia, which are designed to upgrade the economic and political systems and develop the democratization process in all facets of societal life. He said that the communists were preparing for an LCY conference scheduled for this May, told the guests how the line for putting into practice consistently and scrupulously the decisions made, for forging the ideological and organizational unity of the party, which was adopted by the 13th plenary meeting of the League of Communists of Serbia, was being realized.

Viatliy Vorotnikov today visited the Josip Broz Tito memorial complex and laid a wreath.

Meets SFRY's Mikulic

LD251324 Moscow TASS in English 1302 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade April 25 TASS—Vitaliy Vorotnikov, a member of the Politburo of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation, is continuing his official friendly visit to Yugoslavia.

Today he met with Bosko Krunic, president of the collective Presidency of this country. Their friendly conversation dealt with the further development of relations between the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) and the League of Communists of Yugoslavia (LCY) and between the USSR and Yugoslavia.

The sides spoke highly of the results of the recent official visit to this country by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, describing it as a highly important political event in relations between the two countries.

The visit has been significant first of all because, it was pointed out during the exchange of opinions, the final line has been drawn at everything that divided the two parties and countries in the past and because further reserves have been identified that make it possible to take the entire range of Soviet-Yugoslavian cooperation to new levels.

The sides pointed to the important role of cooperation between the CPSU and the LCY and the significance of using it actively to further dialogue on the key issues of building socialism and on the pressing problems of the international communist and working-class movement.

They briefed each other on the progress of preparations for the 19th national conference of the CPSU and a conference of the LCY.

It was noted at the meeting that increasingly close direct friendly contacts between individual republics, regions and cities in the two countries are an important part of the Soviet-Yugoslavian relationship.

Vorotnikov met also with Branko Mikulic, president of the Federal Executive Council of Yugoslavia.

They focussed on the further development of all-round Soviet-Yugoslavian cooperation, in particular the realization of the understandings reached during Gorbachev's visit to this country and his talks and meetings with Yugoslavian leaders and of the adopted joint documents.

It was stressed that both countries are interested in making wide use of such progressive forms of cooperation as co-op arrangements in industry, direct production ties, and joint ventures.

Vorotnikov and Mikulic exchanged opinions on domestic issues in their countries, including the progress of the perestroyka (restructuring) drive in the USSR and efforts to update the political and economic systems in Yugoslavia, and discussed some international problems.

Talks With Milosevic

LD251427 Moscow TASS in English 1402 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Belgrade April 25 TASS—Vitaliy Vorotnikov, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Russian Federation who is staying in Yugoslavia on an official friendly visit, today held talks with Slobodan Milosevic, chairman of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Serbia.

They had a thorough exchange of opinions on a number of issues concerning cooperation between the Russian Federation and Serbia in economic, scientific, technological and other fields.

The sides see it as part and parcel of overall Soviet-Yugoslavian relations and an important supplementary channel to make them as direct as possible.

Outlined plans for broader interaction between the two republics are reflected in a jointly written document on guidelines for cooperation between Russia and Serbia in 1988 through 1990.

Science, design and production organizations in Russia intend to take an active part in technological and economic assistance with such major projects in Serbia as the modernization of a metal-making combine in Smederovo and the building of a subway in Belgrade.

Possibilities for cooperation at republic-to-republic level are reinforced by the fact that direct contacts are being developed also between the Krasnodar territory and Vojvodina, between Dagestan and Kosovo, Moscow and Belgrade, and Kursk and Titovo Uzice.

The sides expressed the firm common desire to continue strengthening the ties of fraternal friendship and all-round fruitful cooperation.

Milosevic spoke about the activities of the Serbian party organization to fulfill the current and long-term tasks of party, economic and cultural development and about preparations by Serbia's Communists for the forthcoming conference of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia next month.

Vorotnikov briefed him on preparations for the 19th national conference of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), which should draw the balance sheet for the work done since the 27th party congress, and on efforts to update Soviet society in a fundamental way.

Milosevic gave a dinner for the Soviet guest, at which the sides exchanged speeches.

MSZMP Official Details Recent Expulsions

PM251343 Moscow TRUD in Russian 16 Apr 88 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Expelled From the Party"]

[Text] The MSZMP Central Party Control Committee has expelled from the party a group of communists working in Hungarian scientific establishments. They included a Hungarian National Assembly deputy, a journalist, a Budapest University professor, and two research officers.

As I. Somogyi, secretary of the MSZMP Central Party Control Committee, informed a TRUD correspondent, over a prolonged period these people, speaking at diverse illegal assemblies, spread slanderous fabrications which discredited the fundamental norms of party life—the principle of democratic centralism—and the Statutes and Program of the MSZMP. They were warned more than once about the incompatibility of their actions with the title of party member and patient attempts were made to persuade them to stop antiparty activity. But these efforts had no effect...

Ryzhkov Addresses Hungarian Economists 20 Apr

PM251526 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report: "N.I. Ryzhkov's Speech at the Hungarian Economic Chamber"]

[Text] Budapest, 22 Apr—As already reported, on 20 April N.I. Ryzhkov, USSR Council of Ministers chairman, addressed Hungarian economic leaders and figures in science and technology in Budapest. He said, in part:

I would like to express gratitude for the invitation to visit the Hungarian Economic Chamber and address representatives of your republic's organizations and enterprises that take part in economic cooperation with the Soviet Union. As I understand it, leaders of Hungary's major enterprises, leading economists, and specialists are present here. Therefore, today's meeting is associated above all with questions of our countries' economic development and questions of their economic cooperation. This subject was central at the talks held in recent days with the Hungarian leaders. You know that the CPSU and MSZMP Central Committees invariably devote the most serious attention to questions of cooperation and of strengthening all-around collaboration, regarding the tasks of their further development as priority tasks.

This is my first official visit to friendly Hungary as chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers. In this short time we have been able to hold a thorough exchange of opinions with Comrade K. Grosz and become acquainted with certain enterprises and cooperatives. The talks and meetings that have been held inspire a great sense of satisfaction. In the course of the talks we examined questions of bilateral Soviet-Hungarian relations and the problems of our cooperation, both current and long-term.

Of course, we have not yet found solutions to all the questions. Life poses new problems for us today. It is very important that we have a constructive approach to them and a common desire to find solutions, that is the most important thing.

Our exchange of opinions took place in an atmosphere of complete mutual understanding and trust, and we spoke frankly about our problems and difficulties, because otherwise it is impossible to achieve a profound, objective analysis of the processes taking place in our countries and in the world economy.

In the postwar decades the socialist countries have traveled a tremendous path and managed to resolve a whole series of major tasks. They overcame the consequences of the war and created a firm material and technical basis for the socialist society. Developing equal, mutually advantageous cooperation, they formed a system of international socialist division of labor. This gave them the opportunity to establish major, promising avenues for the development of their industry, overcome the narrow boundaries of national markets, and steadily, confidently develop production forces in the chosen avenues. The community countries have tremendous production, scientific, and technical potential. The socialist system made it possible to resolve a whole series of social questions, something of which mankind's best minds had dreamed.

Our mutual cooperation did much to promote this dynamic development. It was the locomotive that accelerated the socialist countries' movement along the path of progress.

Through all these years the Soviet Union has made a great contribution to the development of the socialist countries' cooperation and the strengthening of the socialist community. The size of this contribution is, of course, determined by our country's economic, technical, and scientific potential. The community countries' import requirements for oil and petroleum products are almost 80 percent met by deliveries from the USSR, natural gas requirements almost 100 percent, and hard coal more than 70 percent. This peculiarity of our economic relations with the socialist countries is closely associated with another: The Soviet foreign market, in turn, is wide open to output from the fraternal countries. Its stability and great capacity have promoted the dynamic growth of their industrial production. All this fully applies to Soviet-Hungarian economic ties.

But it would be an oversimplification to assess the Soviet Union's role in the economic life of the socialist coutnries solely on the basis of economic or natural conditions. Many other factors also exist, determining the

degree of our country's participation in the community's affairs and in the development of socialist economic integration. These factors include the nature and substance of Soviet policy, which rests on the Soviet people's profound understanding of their international duty.

The Soviet Union has approached from these principled standpoints all the problems that have arisen in our cooperation and the concerns and needs of individual countries. This applies to the economy and to politics, it applies to the defense of the socialist countries' national interests and to supplying their vital needs. Soviet policy has remained true to Leninist behests and ideals.

As for the purely economic side of the matter, the USSR is the main source of raw materials and energy resources that the fraternal socialist countries need. These goods account for about two-thirds of our exports. It is to the community countries that the Soviet Union channels these goods, leaving a smaller proportion for trade with the other countries of the world.

For a long period our socialist train traveled along this reliable, familiar track, and traveled at a good speed. A good pace was characteristic of the USSR's foreign trade with the socialist countries. The growth of foreign trade turnover outstripped the dynamic of national income, thereby reflecting increasingly profound integration ties between the USSR and the fraternal countries.

However, a time came when the conditions in which this development was proceeding—both within the socialist countries and outside them—began to change. The more they changed, the more we felt the effects of the difficulties arising and the increasing gulf between our economic cooperation and the new conditions. The braking mechanism developed, but the misfires in the motor, to use the language of machine builders, or "heart murmurs," as the medics would say, were not observed in time. There is no opportunity here to go into a detailed analysis of the reasons. Both the Soviet Union and the other countries had their specific features. Both in our country and in Hungary, lively debates are now in progress on these matters and a great deal of paper has been filled, but what is needed is serious, thoughtful work to analyze them, draw the necessary conclusions, and apply these in practice.

I think the extensive path was characterized, in particular, by the fact that we did not cut short the leveling trends in our countries in good time. I realize that it was necessary to give people bread, there was a period when it was necessary at least to clothe the people, but the leveling trends that emerged did not allow us to improve the efficiency of social production to the necessary level. As a result the rate of growth of the people's prosperity began to fall.

The main problem of our development, for which no adequate solution was found, was the pace of scientific and technical progress. The socialist countries have a mighty scientific and technical potential, but we were unable to fully realize the available possibilities. The community countries were unable to pool their scientific potential. Instead of acting jointly, they formed links with the West on an individual basis. This disunity and lack of proper cooperation with each other failed to promote the development of relations with capitalist countries on an equal basis.

Of course, we must cooperate with the West, but—as equal partners. That means the socialist countries need to integrate and coordinate their efforts. Today we are paying for shortcomings in this sphere.

We were unable to overcome in good time the difficulties associated with the transition from an extensive path to an intensive path of development. The consequence of this was laggardness in resource-saving and energy-saving.

The task of eliminating the braking mechanism is complex and wide-ranging. It covers a wide range of questions, both the purely technological and those that are associated with the human factor, which determines to an enormous extent the level of labor productivity and finally the level of international division of labor and socialist integration. All this taken together determines the level of production efficiency.

Therefore, the work we have to do today is equally diverse. There are social, economic, and political measures. Their nature, combination, and peculiarities depend on the specific conditions of each specific country.

However, for all the diversity of conditions, the general laws that characterize the socialist means of production make it possible for our countries effectively to pool their efforts with a view to accelerating scientific and technical progress. The present-day standard of technology and the nature and scale of scientific and technical problems certainly require the rational division of labor and the concentration of forces and resources on strategic, decisive avenues. This approach ensures the successful and increasingly profound incorporation of the socialist community countries in world economic ties.

But this pooling of efforts requires a corresponding integration machinery that is up to the tasks of the switch to the intensive type of development, stimulates the development of socialist economic integration, and strengthens the socialist states' position in the international division of labor as equal participants.

Many instances could be cited to show that the potential available to the socialist countries in this respect has not been properly used.

This applies in particular to that flexible, effective form of economic integration, industrial production sharing [kooperatsiya]. Its level cannot be regarded as satisfactory today, and it acts as a brake on the development of reciprocal trade. This applies to all the socialist countries, and it applies to Soviet-Hungarian economic relations.

Today life has raised quite clearly for everyone the question of the need for a new approach to the development of production sharing. Yesterday, on my visit to the "Tungsram" enterprise, I asked its general director what he sees as the main shortcoming in economic relations between the USSR and Hungary. He replied that he sees that shortcoming in the fact that we do not have genuinely economic relations, genuine trade. I think that answer is correct.

The main shortcoming in economic relations between the Soviet Union and Hungary is that we do not have real trade: Commodity exchange predominates. Until we have created an economic mechanism that opens up the possibility of developing commodity-money relations, there will be no profound changes.

In this connection it is important that individual enterprises and organizations do not remain aloof from economic decisions. The old principles whereby all the questions were decided from above, through the ministry, are not suitable today.

A great deal has been said about the restructuring processes in the USSR. We began economic reform back in 1965, and for those days, the reform planned was not bad. Attempts to improve the economic mechanism were also made in the second half of the seventies. But unfortunately all these attempts ended with matters gradually going back to how they were before. Why? First and foremost because we did not enlist the people in this cause—the reform was carried out "at the top," at the management levels, and did not get below the level of plant directors. The people remained aloof from the reform. Therefore, the main components of restructuring that have now been formulated by the political leadership of the Soviet Union are that we must carry out a radical economic reform and ensure the further development of democratic principles in all spheres of our life.

The first stage of reform is over: the stage of analysis and development of an integral system, the stage of reflection—how to move, in what direction, by what route. We must now put into practice the principles that have been substantiated in theory, through setting economic normatives and economic principles and through educating people. A very difficult time has come for us. Some 60 percent of our industrial enterprises have now begun to work in conditions of self-financing and self-capitalization, and we can tell that some have rapidly tackled this matter, their activeness has increased, while others have come up against difficulties. But generally our society has been awakened, and activeness has increased very sharply among the people. The foundations of our economic development for the next 5-year plan are now being laid.

Of course, the radical economic reform could not but affect foreign economic activity too. We have set up a single department to take charge of this work and given many major enterprises and associations the opportunity to act autonomously on the foreign market. There are now 90 such associations, and the number will increase. The situation is changing, activeness is growing: In machine building, exports have increased 30 percent. We have drawn up a whole series of economic provisions and normatives that stimulate foreign economic activity.

As for Soviet-Hungarian economic cooperation, it must be observed that the coming years will be difficult for us. You know that world oil prices have fallen sharply. Yet we must not allow a fall in the existing volume of trade turnover, on the contrary, we must seek to increase it. For this we need economic and political will, and we have that will. The Soviet Union will therefore seek to increase exports of machine building output. We are satisfied that we have reached mutual understanding with the Hungarian Government on this question.

We attach great significance to setting up joint enterprises with the socialist countries, including Hungary. Thus far we have agreed on eight Soviet-Hungarian enterprises, but only three have actually begun to produce output. It should be said that very much will now depend on how far the Soviet and Hungarian participants in joint enterprises and production sharing agreements seek to take into account mutual interests and find truly mutually advantageous solutions. This inscription should be carved above the entrance to joint enterprises: "Here people respect and understand each other."

The socialist community should set an example here. After all, without the creation of joint enterprises and the development of production-sharing ties, the further steady growth of trade turnover is unrealistic. We must think about all of this, and I am confident a solution will be found.

Today, on the threshold of the 21st century, mankind is approaching a new milestone in the development of production forces. As yet it is hard to imagine what changes this will make in our lives. But all the indications are that the changes will be profound, will affect all countries to some degree, and will also require corresponding changes in all other spheres. In other words, the need for new thinking and new approaches in politics and economics also arises from worldwide trends.

This conclusion is further confirmation of the firm basis for the requirement arising in our relations for cohesion and for a quest for new paths in the development of the economy, cooperation, and socialist integration. Our joint work will promote the successful development of socialism in our countries.

BCP Restructuring's Distinctive Features

PM251515 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[Own correspondent L. Zhmyrev dispatch: "Creators Rather Than Executors"]

[Text] Sofia, 19 Apr—Since the BCP Central Committee July (1987) Plenum, intensive structural restructuring of the party leadership sphere has been under way. What are its distinguishing features? This is what Chudomir Aleksandrov, Politburo member and BCP Central Committee secretary, said at a meeting with journalists:

"The biggest changes have affected municipal and oblast committees, created in accordance with the country's new territorial division. To an increasing degree they are becoming working rather than deliberating organs.

As is known, the BCP apparatus was originally formed in accordance with the departmental principle—production department, administrative department, cultural department, and so forth. Now the departments have been abolished. The party apparatus concentrates on two main spheres in its activity. One is connected with day-to-day organizational work and comprises experienced, skilled party cadres. The purpose of the other is to provide methodological assistance. It involves economists, sociologists, specialists in the field of information science and other social sciences. Their goal is to study the state of affairs and problems of specific organizations and to submit proposals and recommendations with a view to improving their work.

As you can see, these are fundamentally new features in the work of municipal and oblast BCP committees. Will they prove their worth? The future will tell.

The main efforts are now focused on overcoming indifference, passiveness, and the shirking of responsibility and inducing communists and the working people to assume an active social stance and to act as creators rather than executors.

Soviet, Polish Ministry Officials Hold Meeting

PM251153 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] On 21 April USSR Deputy Foreign Minister B.N. Chaplin had a meeting with Polish Deputy Foreign Minister B. Kulski, who has come to Moscow as a member of the Polish delegation to celebrate the 43d anniversary of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the USSR and Poland and to open the Polish Information and Cultural Center in the USSR.

Polish Ambassador in Moscow Views Relations

PM250921 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 19 Apr 88 p 3

[Interview with Wlodzimierz Natorf, Polish ambassador to the Soviet Union, by own correspondent Ya. Lomko under the heading "Dynamics of Cooperation"—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] April 21 is a glorious date in the history of relations between the Polish and Soviet peoples. On this day in 1945 the Soviet-Polish Treaty of Friendship, Postwar Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance was signed in Moscow. SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA correspondent Ya. Lomko asked Wlodzimierz Natorf, Polish ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the Soviet Union, to talk about the present stage in the development of fraternal relations between our countries.

[Natorf] I feel I must note two important features at least. First, the fact that cooperation has broadened considerably. It is well known that at the beginning of the eighties there was a certain reduction in the pace of our ties' development in all areas. This was the result of difficulties in the process of socialist building in Poland at that time. In the last 2-3 years we have not only seen the previous scale of cooperation restored but in many areas we have made considerably greater advances in comparison to the level reached in the seventies.

Second, I think that everything new in our cooperation that is now emerging is directly linked to the revolutionary changes taking place in the Soviet Union as part of the restructuring process and to those processes in Poland which we term socialist renewal.

In recent years we have placed the emphasis on deeper ties in our economic relations. In addition to traditional trade and the exchange of goods we are also deepening cooperation. This requires the establishment of closer ties directly between enterprises and the development of production specialization—in short, efforts to achieve a deeper unity of industrial and scientific and technical potential between the two countries. And, finally, mutual assistance in making greater demands on the quality of production output and its technical level is also becoming the order of the day. This is particularly important when it concerns the building of new enterprises. The question can be formulated like this: Is it logical to invest funds in the creation of enterprises based on old technology and equipment?

So-called new forms—direct links between enterprises and joint enterprises--are expected to play an important role in further developing cooperation. These questions were given a great deal of attention during the recent conversations between N.I. Ryzhkov, USSR Council of

Ministers chairman, and Z. Messner, Polish Council of Ministers chairman. In this respect the heads of government were highly critical in their assessment of our achievements to date.

[Lomko] So what is preventing the achievement of better results?

[Natorf] During the conversations, at which I was present, the sides also noted the existence of a number of objective difficulties. In many areas the new economic mechanism is still not working as we would like—it is still only being established in the Soviet Union and in Poland. We have yet to create a system of currency exchange that reflects the true value of each of our national currencies. The mechanism of joint enterprises does not always work properly. In many cases this is the result of subjective factors.

Experience shows, however, that even in the conditions of the present economic mechanism active, business people find ways to overcome obstacles and achieve definite results of benefit to both sides.

We are concerned that as yet only 1 of more than 10 joint Soviet-Polish enterprises planned has actually been built. Nevertheless, our countries' leaders do not want new forms of cooperation to be introduced by the old methods—through orders issued from above. Economic leaders themselves must show initiative and find partners with whom cooperation would be mutually advantageous, and they must see the job through to the end. This does not mean that the state apparatus will merely be a passive observer in this process. But its activeness must take a different form: The state apparatus is expected to contribute to creating conditions favorable to the development of new forms of cooperation.

[Lomko] What kind of influence is developing cooperation having on the process of the Soviet and Polish peoples' spiritual rapprochement?

[Natorf] An enormous influence. It is precisely in this sphere, I believe, that we have achieved the greatest results. When, for example, our theater under the leadership of J. Szajna tours the Soviet Union in an atmosphere of amicability, enormous interest, and empathy, this gives every Pole a feeling of pride.

The mass media are reporting and writing more and more about the Soviet Union. This is not being done in a formal way (as it was in the past) but with interest. Honest, friendly accounts of life in the Soviet Union are a source of enormous interest in Poland and make people think. They compare the Soviet experience of solving many problems with the ways in which this is being done in Poland.

[Lomko] We will be celebrating Lenin's birthday in a few days' time. Poland was a refuge for Lenin during the difficult period of his emigre activity.

[Natorf] Lenin has always aroused sympathy and love in the hearts of our working people. His ideas on socialism are intelligible and dear to us. His views are arousing a lively interest particularly now that, under the leadership of the CPSU and as part of the restructuring process, your country is undertaking such enormous, fruitful efforts to cleanse Lenin's ideas of everything alien, incorrect, and formalistically interpreted.

The Polish Culture and Information Center is opening in Moscow on the eve of Lenin's birthday and the anniversary of the Soviet-Polish treaty. Lenin always saw the peoples' future as lying in close cultural contact and rapprochement. We hope that our center in Moscow will be not only a focus for the propaganda of Polish culture in the USSR, which naturally gives every Pole a sense of satisfaction, but another site for building deeply fraternal relations between the Polish and Soviet peoples.

Polish Minister on Agricultural Cooperation

PM251045 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 16 Apr 88 p 3

[TASS report under the general headline "News from Poland": "Strengthening Ties"]

[Text] Warsaw, 15 Apr—Cooperation between Poland and the USSR in the agricultural sphere is extensive and comprehensive, S. Zieba, Polish minister of agriculture, forestry, and the food industry, has stressed. In addition to interaction within the CEMA framework, Polish-Soviet bilateral cooperation is developing successfully on the basis of intergovernmental agreements and protocols concluded with the USSR Gosagroprom, he said in an interview with the PAP news agency.

Dozens of state farms, agricultural production cooperatives, scientific research centers, and food industry enterprises are expanding direct cooperation with their Soviet partners. Direct cross-border cooperation in the sphere of economics and trade is promising. The development of cooperation among scientists in the two countries in the agricultural sphere is very significant. Some 30 agreements, in particular concerning the intensification of plant growing, have already been concluded. Some six joint scientific research groups have been created for elaborating new biological means for the struggle against plant pests. Some 34 topics will be elaborated within the framework of the protocol signed with the USSR Gosagroprom to 1990.

An exchange with the Soviet Union involving modern technology in the sphere of plant growing is being successfully carried out. Poland presented the USSR with cultivation technology and seeds of fodder beet and winter rape. Plantations of beet and corn based on Soviet technology have produced good results. The exchange of seeds, breeding material and plants grown in nurseries, specialized equipment, and production and technical experience is being more widely practiced.

Plans to further develop mutually advantageous ties in the agricultural sphere are extensive, the minister said in conclusion. Such spheres as biotechnology, nontraditional energy sources, nature conservation, waste-free technology, and forestry monitoring can be mentioned.

West Europe

'European Aspects' of U.S.-Soviet Talks Cited

LD230140 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] The preparatory work for the Soviet-American summit commands great interest, and not only in the Soviet Union and in the United States. Here's Nikolay Borin on the European aspects of the coming summit in Moscow.

[Borin] The Soviet-American dialogue has a great deal of meaning for Europeans. The previous summit in Washington and the signing of the INF Treaty on abolishing two classes of nuclear missiles opened the door to a new stage of cooperation in Europe. Never before have we witnessed such brisk trade or cultural and political contacts in still divided Europe. What is interesting is that this revival of pan-European relationships have involved practically the entire political spectrum in Europe, no matter what the color of this or that political party. Each has felt compelled to face up to the changing realities in light of the Soviet-American dialogue. This is not merely (?a) question of (?competing) with the United States for access to the huge Soviet market. Western Europe now faces the imperative to work out a radically new approach to the growing openness in the relationships between East and West as a whole.

On the other hand, if Soviet-American talks have achieved a definitely new level in settling complex issues of arms control, this will certainly have an impact on the whole range of security problems in Europe. Some vital aspects of verification, on-site inspection, and the technical means of monitoring simply cannot be overlooked by Europe when tackling decisions on confidence-building measures or reductions in conventional arms of NATO and Warsaw Treaty. And during his visit to Moscow, the American Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet officials agreed that the two sides are to examine the possibility of both alliances simultaneously publishing data of their armed forces and (?major) weapons in the near future.

At any rate, I think that the coming summit will bring with it fresh possibilities for Europeans to pierce ideological barriers and to chop their way through the woods of prejudice which we inherited from cold war times and still have to be overcome.

Sayenko Comments on Nuclear Warheads in Britain

LD260145 Moscow in English to Great Britain and Ireland 1900 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] At their meeting in Brussels later this week, NATO defense ministers are expected to discuss a confidential report on the prospects of modernizing the Alliance's nuclear arsenals, after Soviet and American intermediate-range missiles have been scrapped. Sergey Sayenko has written the following comment:

According to the DAILY TELEGRAPH, NATO plans above all to increase the number of nuclear warheads in Britain. It is planned for one to deploy American submarines with cruise missiles at the Holy Loch naval base in Scotland. Besides, Britain and some other European countries plan to deploy dual purpose aircraft to be armed with conventional or nuclear weapons. However, London is ready not only to assume parts of nuclear commitment but also to join Washington and urge Belgium and the Netherlands, West Germany and Italy, to provide bases for siting new nuclear warheads after the systems positioned there are scrapped in line with the INF Treaty.

London has been advocating plans to compensate for nuclear weapons and modernize nuclear forces in Europe. Suffice it to recall intentions to site additionally up to 60 F-111 nuclear capable fighter bombers and supply aircraft and naval vessels with advanced nuclear cruise missiles, a British model. The submarines are being reequipped with new Trident-2 systems. The nuclear might is being amassed at a time when NATO and the Warsaw Pact are strong enough to destroy each other 50 times over.

Now that the disarmament process is gaining momentum and intensive work is under way to draft a treaty on strategic arms, the compensation plans look obviously absurd. As for Britain, a paradoxical situation may emerge in the wake of building up nuclear arms. After the cuts envisaged by the INF Treaty, Britain will very shortly as a result of compensation have a greater number of more destructive nuclear weapons capable of hitting targets in the USSR. As for Moscow, it will scrap its missiles. London is, in fact, outside the process of disarmament in Europe and is mroe opposed to it. However, such an illogical position has been increasingly censured even by the close NATO allies, regarding the British Government's policy as unconstructive.

Launch of Britain's Latest Submarine Noted

PM251148 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 88 First Edition p 5

[Special correspondent A. Lyutyy report under the rubric: "Following a Course of Militarism": "After the 'Talent'"]

[Text] London, 22 Apr—Britain has marked the 25th anniversary of the launching of the country's first nuclear submarine. Marked it in practical terms, so to speak—with the commissioning of the latest.

This time a "monster" named "Talent" was launched from the slipway at the Vickers Shipbuilding Yard in Barrow-in-Furness in northwestern England. The nuclear submarine, with its crew of 100, will carry modern missiles and torpedoes to distant shores. Where those shores are is well known: London makes no great secret of the fact that British submarines "graze" mainly off the northern shores of the USSR.

Warm winds of hope are blowing in the world today—hopes that by the next millenium, the planet will be able to rid itself of the burden of nuclear weapons. An important first step has been taken in this direction—the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles was signed.

The government sings the praises of the British submarine fleet, which is equipped with nuclear weapons and has 21 submarines. London says that Britian has acquired combat experience in this sphere: It is the only country to have had a nuclear submarine "in action." This refers to the Falklands crisis of 1982, when a torpedo launched from the British submarine "Conqueror" sank the Argentine cruiser "General Belgrano." London counts this "achievement" as being to its credit in the competitive battle with France for the contract to build a nuclear submarine for Canada.

The "Talent" is the last submarine of the "old" generation. Next in line is the launching, planned for 1992, of a boat of the "Trident" class, with a displacement of 15,000 tonnes. The program for building this series of four submarines has already begun. For the "Tridents," Britain intends to buy from the United States the sophisticated strategic missiles of the same name, which will gradually replace the "Polaris" missiles now in the armory. The sum of 12 billion pounds sterling is being appropriated for the "Tridents," at a time when the country's most important social programs are coming apart at the seams for lack of funds. It has been calculated that if the government abandoned its plans, the funds saved would make it possible to build at least 500 hospitals, which the country badly needs.

But Whitehall is unshakable. People there claim that the "Trident" project is "the minimum Britain needs for defense."

U.S. Delta Force Unit To Be Stationed in UK

PM251317 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Second Edition p 5

[Special Correspondent A. Lyutyy report: "The Tentacles of 'Delta Force'"]

[Text] London, 19 Apr—Delta Force, the top secret U.S. Army subdivision based in Florida, is opening its first foreign "subsidiary" in the British Isles. According to press reports, the British Government has agreed to the stationing of some of that subdivision's personnel and combat hardware in Britain.

As early as next June, 125 U.S. commandos forming the so-called 21st Special Operations Squadron will be stationed permanently at the Woodbridge Air Force Base in Suffolk. The name conceals the fact that this is a Delta Force detachment, ready for transshipment to any part of the world. It will be allocated six modern helicopters specially equipped for lightning raids. THE SUNDAY TIMES writes that even though the helicopters' flight range is comparatively small—around 500 km—they are adapted for mid-air refueling which, the newspaper writes, will enable them to "reach the Middle East without landing." That, clearly is the main target of possible operations.

The stationing of the Delta Force soldiers in Britain is officially justified by a need for maneuverability in such situations as, for example, the terrorist hijacking of aircraft with U.S. passengers on board. But it is no secret that the "rescue mission" screen is used very often to cover up incursions into sovereign states' territory.

The Pentagon will repay its debt to the Thatcher government. It is reported that the "Delta Force assault troops will conduct training operations in conjunction with the equivalent British detachments," the Special Air Services (SAS). The latter have become very adept in the field of sabotage and terrorist sorties. It has virtually been established that the British secret agents who recently gunned down three unarmed Northern Irishmen at close range on Gibraltar were SAS members.

Tolkunov-Led Delegation Visits Finland

Arrives 24 Apr

LD242125 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1710 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Helsinki, 24 Apr (TASS)—Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived here for a visit today at the invitation of the speaker of the parliament of the Finnish Republic. He will take part in a joint Soviet-Finnish interparliamentary seminar on questions of safeguarding security and peaceful cooperation in the north, including in the Arctic.

A delegation from the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the Chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Ivan Laptev, member of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Soviet of the Union arrived in Helsinki at the same time.

The Soviet parliamentarians were met at the international airport in the Finnish capital by Matti Ahde, speaker of the Finnish parliament, and other officials.

Tolkunov Addresses Seminar

LD252302 Moscow TASS in English 1826 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Helsinki April 25 TASS—By TASS correspondents Nikolay Gorbunov and Aleksandr Surikov:

A Soviet-Finnish interparliamentary seminar was held here today to examine the issues of ensuring security and peaceful cooperation in the north, including the Arctic.

Organized on the initiative of the Finnish parliament, it discussed ways to improve the military-political climate in northern regions and launch broad international cooperation there in economic pursuits, research and environmental protection.

The Soviet attendees at the seminar included Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union, which is one of the two houses in the Soviet parliament—the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, and members of a visiting delegation from the foreign relations commissions of the two parliamentary houses.

The discussion centered on the wide-ranging program of action suggested by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the Soviet Communist Party Central Committee, in his speech in Murmansk last October.

Speaking at the seminar, Tolkunov said the program has encapsuled ideas voiced in Nordic countries for strengthening peace in the north.

Dialogue on the non-military aspects of the Murmansk plan, he said, has been especially productive and there has been marked progress in coordinating scientific studies in the Arctic.

Intense work is under way as regards also economic cooperation and contacts both on a bilateral and on a multilateral basis are ever brisker in environmental protection as well, Tolkunov continued.

He pointed, however, to questions raised by the situation concerning the military-political proposals of the USSR and cited specific examples demonstrating the unconstructive attitude to them on the part of the United States and NATO.

One example given by Tolkunov was the negative NATO reaction to a proposal for consultations between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO on reducing military activity and limiting naval and air force activity in the Baltic, North, Norwegian and Greenland Seas and for spreading confidence-building measures to these seas and the Barents Sea.

The Soviet Union, Tolkunov stressed in conclusion, is not going to drop its proposals for limiting and reducing military activity in the north and will seek to get the United States and NATO involved in dialogue on these issues.

Finn Notes Kola 'Pollution'

LD251732 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] The Soviet Union is willing to talk about all problems concerning a nuclear weapon-free zone in the north with representatives of the working group of Nordic foreign ministers working on the project. This was said by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, who is visiting Finland. He spoke at a Finnish-Soviet parliamentary seminar in Helsinki today. Tolkunov repeated the Soviet preparedness to give necessary guarantees to the zone, and to take essential measures in its own area bordering the zone.

Matti Kahiluoto, head of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, mentioned Finland's worry about the damaging effects of the air pollution coming from Kola to eastern Lapland. According to Kahiluoto, this problem also shows the urgent need for starting cooperation in the north.

Shevardnadze Receives FRG Envoy, Kohl Message

LD251617 Moscow TASS in English 1605 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Eduard Shevardnadze, a member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, today received Andreas Meyer-Landrut, ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany in the USSR, at the latter's request.

The ambassador handed him a personal message for Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, from FRG Federal Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Shevardnadze and Meyer-Landrut during their meeting discussed some pressing international problems as well as bilateral relations between the USSR and the FRG in the context of Kohl's forthcoming official visit to this country next fall.

Scientific Protocol Signed With West Germany

PM251149 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[TASS report under general heading: "Official Reports"]

[Text] The first session of the joint commission of the USSR and the FRG on scientific and technical cooperation ended with the signing of a protocol in Bonn. During the session's work, there was an examination of

trends in the development of Soviet-West German relations in the field of science and technology and the progress in implementing intergovernmental specialized agreements on scientific and technical cooperation between the USSR and the FRG in the field of the peaceful use of atomic energy, agrarian research, health, and medical sciences.

Bonn Seminar Hails 'Positive Changes' in World
PM221353 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Apr 88 First Edition p 7

[Own correspondent Yu. Yakhontov dispatch: "CDU Foreign Policy Conference"]

[Text] Bonn, 21 Apr—A conference of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), the leading party in the country's ruling coalition, has been held here. It was devoted to FRG foreign policy problems. The conference opened with a report by Federal Chancellor H. Kohl, chairman of the CDU, on the theme "Freedom, Security, Cooperation: A Foreign Policy for the Future of Germany." Taking part in the conference were the FRG president, many foreign representatives accredited in Bonn, and a large number of journalists. Quite unusual for this kind of event were the reports delivered after H. Kohl's speech by the ambassadors of two great powers—the United States and the USSR—and the discussions which they subsequently had in turn with one of the CDU's leading politicians, V. Ruehe, deputy chairman of the CDU-CSU [Christian Democratic Union-Christian Social Union] fraction in the Bundestag.

The chancellor noted in his reports that the treaties concluded with neighboring socialist states and the Helsinki Final Act continue to provide the basis of the FRG's policy on these countries.

The speaker reaffirmed that the NATO security concept will continue to be based on nuclear containment [sderzhivaniye] since otherwise "the strategic unity of the alliance would be undermined and deterrence [ustrasheniye] would be called into question." The chancellor called for the reinforcement of NATO and friendship with the United States and, at the same time, advocated the implementation of a policy of mutual understanding with the Soviet Union and other countries of Eastern Europe.

Touching on the question of further disarmament steps, H. Kohl expressed himself against a nuclear-free Europe. He declared that, alongside further steps toward disarmament, a modernization of forces and armaments is necessary "in the interests of maintaining the (West's—Yu. Ya.) defense capability."

A large section of H. Kohl's speech was devoted to the Soviet Union. He welcomed the decision to withdraw Soviet forces from Afghanistan and noted that people in the FRG are following the process of transformations being implemented in the USSR with attention and interest. "In summing up the results of recent years, progress is evident," he declared. Unfortunately, the speaker chose a strange criterion to assess this progress in the USSR—the number of citizens of German origin who have been allowed to leave the Soviet Union.

Touching on upcoming meetings with M.S. Gorbachev in Moscow this fall and Bonn next year, the chancellor said that "this political dialogue will make it possible to discuss all questions pertaining to cooperation and to reach agreement on quite specific projects. We are ready to start a new chapter in our relations with the Soviet Union." In the speaker's view, joint interests provide the best basis for cooperation and mutual understanding.

As for the speech delivered by R. Burt, U.S. ambassador to the FRG, it was, in my opinion, marked by a spirit which in no way testified to any flashes of new thinking on the part of the U.S. conservatives. The ambassador openly advocated nuclear deterrence, tried to blackmail those attending the conference with the possibility of the withdrawal of U.S. forces from the FRG, and drew frightening pictures of a West Europe remaining alone, eyeball to eyeball with the "offensive strategy of the Warsaw Pact."

As distinct from Burt, USSR Ambassador A. Kvitsinskiy set forth a positive, constructive program based on the Soviet plan for the destruction of all nuclear weapons by the year 2000 and the elimination of chemical weapons. He reaffirmed once more the USSR's readiness to reduce conventional armed forces and armaments. The West, however, lacks the desire to meet us halfway in order to implement this proposal. The Soviet representative, whose speech was interrupted by applause (from this audience!?), favored the all-around expansion and development of cooperation between the USSR and the FRG.

H. Riesenhuber, FRG minister of research and technology, and L. Spaeth, deputy chairman of the CDU and prime minister of Baden-Wuerttemberg, favored broad cooperation in the sphere of technological and economic exchanges both between the FRG and the USSR and with the other socialist countries.

On the whole the CDU conference testified to the incontrovertible fact that the positive changes currently taking place in the world are finding an albeit timid but nonetheless positive response even in the FRG conservative camp.

Tolkunov-Led Group Meets With French Officials
PM251347 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading: "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] Paris, 22 Apr—The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by L.N. Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union, which is in France

at the invitation of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, has met with J. Chaban-Delmas, president of the French National Assembly, and with A. Poher, president of the Senate.

The state of and prospects for Soviet-French interparliamentary ties were examined in a friendly atmosphere, and their significance for deepening our peoples' mutual understanding and broadening cooperation in Europe was emphasized. A wide range of problems relating to strengthening security and cooperation on the European Continent was also discussed at the meeting. In this connection the Soviet side drew attention to the opportunities opened up by the concept of the "common European home" advanced by the Soviet Union. Note was taken of the timely nature and the mutual benefit of establishing direct contacts between parliamentarians of the Soviet Union and West Europe, including with the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, with which the delegation had a fruitful and intensive exchange of opinions in Strasbourg, where this organization's headquarters is situated.

Ya.P. Ryabov, USSR ambassador to France, was present at the meetings with the leaders of the chambers of the French parliament.

Delegation Departs 23 Apr

LD231628 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1220 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] Paris, 23 Apr (TASS)—A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation led by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet's Council of the Union, left France today for home. The Soviet parliamentarians had been in France at the invitation of the Council of Europe's Parliamentary Assembly.

Among those seeing them off at the airport in Paris was Yakov Ryabov, USSR ambassador to France.

Discussions Held With France on Latin America

PM251027 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report: "France-USSR: Consultations on Topical Questions"]

[Text] Paris, 20 Apr—Consultations on topical issues regarding the situation in Latin America were held between representatives of the USSR Foreign Ministry and the French Foreign Affairs Ministry in the French capital on 18-19 April. The Soviet side was represented at the consultations by L.F. Kuzmin, chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry Second Latin American Countries Department, and Ya.A. Burlyay, deputy chief of the USSR Foreign Ministry First Latin American Countries Department. The French side was represented by A. Vidal, chief of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry South American Department, and A. Le Gourrierec, chief of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry Central American Department. The Soviet representatives also held a conversation with B. Boyer, director of the French Foreign Affairs Ministry American Department.

Central Committee Greets Luxembourg Communists

PM251152 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Second Edition p 1

[CPSU Central Committee message: "To the 25th Communist Party of Luxembourg Congress"]

[Text] Dear comrades!

We send cordial, fraternal greetings to the Communists of Luxembourg, who have assembled for their 25th party congress.

Soviet Communists are very sympathetic toward the activity of your party which comes out in defense of the socioeconomic and democratic rights of the country's working people and for their expansion, for a constructive contribution by Luxembourg to the normalization of the political climate on the European Continent, and for the development of relations of trust and mutually advantageous cooperation between Luxembourg and the Soviet Union.

The present atmosphere sets communists complex tasks the resolution of which demands a quest for new, nonstereotyped approaches. In these conditions, further development of all-around contacts between fraternal parties and mutual enrichment on the basis of the exchange of experience take on particular significance.

The CPSU and the PCL [Communist Party of Luxembourg] have been linked for decades by comradely, friendly relations. We value highly the PCL's solidarity with our work in restructuring Soviet society and with our foreign policy based on the new thinking. We assure you, dear comrades, of the unchanging solidarity of the CPSU and all Soviet Communists with your activity for the sake of your people.

We wish the 25th PCL Congress successful work, so that its decisions help to increase the prestige of Luxembourg's Communists among the country's working people and all left-wing democratic forces.

The CPSU Central Committee

Supreme Soviet Deputies Continue Malta Visit

Arrival Statement at Airport

PM251151 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under the general heading "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] Valletta, 20 Apr—A USSR Supreme Soviet delegation arrived in Malta on an official visit on 19 April. It is headed by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium. This is the first official visit to Malta by Soviet parliamentarians.

The delegation was met at the airport by J. Farrugia, speaker of the House of Representatives; other officials; activists of the Malta-USSR Society for cultural ties and friendship; V.Ya. Plechko, Soviet ambassador to Malta; and staffers from Soviet establishments on Malta.

The head of the Soviet delegation made a press statement. He greeted the people of Malta and pointed out that parliamentary ties are a channel for bilateral contact and political dialogue without which it is impossible to really build relations of mutual trust and cooperation. "Our delegation has arrived in Malta at a time when there has been a turn for the better in the overall international situation," he noted. "The Soviet Union is ready to develop and deepen friendly relations with Malta in all spheres on a mutually beneficial and stable basis, which as we see it, is fully in accord with the interests of the Soviet and Maltese peoples."

The Soviet delegation's itinerary includes meetings with Prime Minister E. Fenech Adami, acting President Paul Xuereb, and ministers, a conversation with representatives of the country's supreme legislative organ, and familiarization with the life and culture of the Republic.

The talks are focused on topical issues of international politics, problems of detente and disarmament, the situation in the Mediterranean, prospects for strengthening European security, further development of interparliamentary relations, and trade, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries.

Today the delegation will be visiting the Maltese Parliament.

Meet With Parliamentarians

PM251057 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 22 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS report under general heading "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Text] Valletta, 21 Apr—The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation, which is on an official visit here, met with acting President of the Republic P. Xuereb yesterday.

T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and head of the Soviet delegation, briefed the head of state in detail about the process of restructuring in the Soviet Union and spoke of the USSR's latest initiatives in the international arena.

P. Xuereb declared that he follows with great interest the development of events in the Soviet Union and the USSR's important topical initiatives in the international arena. He drew special attention to the proposals regarding the Mediterranean which were put forward by M.S. Gorbachev in Belgrade.

The Maltese leader also expressed anxiety over the situation in the Near East, pointing out that Malta advocates the holding of an international conference for settlement of the dangerous conflict existing there to be attended by all intersted sides.

An extensive and keen conversation between Soviet and Maltese deputies also took place in the Maltese Parliament. House of Representatives Speaker J. Farrugia described the country's supreme legislative organ and its structure and functions. Our country's Constitution, he stressed, proclaims that Malta pursues a policy based on the principles of neutrality and nonalignment, and we parliamentarians act on this basis.

The Soviet side stressed that the USSR respects and supports Malta's policy based on the principles of neutrality and nonalignment. The course it follows in the international arena helps to consolidate detente. The Soviet Union also acts in this direction.

Deputy John Dalli from the ruling Nationalist Party pointed out in his speech the importance of the visit by the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation.

Deputies Alex Trigona and Leo Brincat from the opposition Labor Party expressed confidence that this visit will raise relations between the two countries to a qualitatively new and higher level.

The Maltese parliamentarians were unanimous in stressing that they support Soviet initiatives in the international arena, including the Mediterranean proposals. We are in favor of our region becoming a zone of peace and cooperation and not of confrontation, they pointed out. This is important not only for Malta but also for the world as a whole.

Talks Held With Ministers

PM251201 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 23 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 5

[TASS correspondent A. Golyayev dispatch under the general heading: "Interparliamentary Ties"]

[Excerpts] Valletta, 22 Apr—The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by T.N. Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, today met here with Maltese Prime Minister E. Fenech Adami. During the talks the head of government voiced satisfaction with the good state of Soviet-Maltese ties in all spheres and emphasized the need to develop them further. "We follow with great interest the new Soviet initiatives in the international arena," E. Fenech Adami said. "I believe that we are entering a new era when international cooperation will develop for the good of all people."

The prime minister emphasized the importance of the upcoming Soviet-U.S. summit meeting in Moscow and voiced the hope that it will produce substantial results.

"The dialogue must be continued," he said, "and it is a very good thing that a breach has recently been made in the wall of East-West mistrust."

There was an exchange of opinions on the situation in the Mediterranean and the Near East. E. Fenech Adami emphasized that, in Malta's opinion, the Near East conflict cannot be settled without regard for the interests of the Arab people of Palestine.

Today, too, the Soviet delegation had a meeting with Maltese Foreign Minister V. Tabone. The minister emphasized the importance of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit for the further development of friendly relations between the two countries. He declared that Malta is interested in strengthening its ties with the USSR and pointed out that the Maltese follow with great interest the process of restructuring in the Soviet Union.

"The world is too small to build international relations on confrontation," the minister said. "Being a quite small country, Malta takes a very serious attitude to questions of security and strengthening detente, since without these it is impossible to imagine our island's further socioeconomic development."

Hailing the conclusion of the Soviet-U.S. Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate- and Shorter-Range Missiles, V. Tabone pointed out that it is a question of the first, albeit small, step on the way to reducing and not just limiting nuclear arms. It is necessary to continue movement on this path, the minister said, voicing hope for the speediest signing of a Soviet-U.S. treaty on a 50-percent reduction in strategic offensive arms. V. Tabone emphasized that, in Malta's opinion, it is also necessary to work toward reducing conventional arms. "We value the fact that the Soviet Union takes an understanding attitude to this problem," he said.

The situation in the Mediterranean and the role of neutral and nonaligned countries in the international arena were discussed during the meeting. It was emphasized that the Soviet Union respects and values Malta's policy founded on the principles of neutrality and nonalignment.

In the talks and meetings the members of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation emphasized that our planet is today living through a turning point in world politics. The time has come when it is not weapons that must destroy people, but vice versa. The new thinking is increasingly strongly making headway in the world. The strengthening of security is also a common task for parliamentarians of various countries.

The USSR Supreme Soviet delegation also had meetings with a number of ministers of the Maltese Government. [passage omitted]

During the visit, the delegation visited a shipyard. Questions of expanding ties along higher education lines were discussed at the university in the Maltese capital. There was a thorough discussion with the university's leadership on the role of scientists in the struggle for mankind's survival in the nuclear age.

The delegation visited an exhibition devoted to the 118th anniversary of V.I. Lenin's birth at the "Malta-USSR" Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations.

A meeting was held with the society's activists. It was attended by P. Xuereb, acting president of the Republic. Addressing the gathering, he emphasized the importance of the USSR Supreme Soviet delegation's visit for the development of mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries' peoples.

A. Cassar, president of the "Malta-USSR" Society, pointed in his speech to the need to further strengthen cultural ties between the two countries. "The purpose of our society's activity," he said, "is to broaden the knowledge of the Maltese about the world's first socialist state and the important processes taking place in your country. The Maltese people have suffered a great deal, and we know how to value real friendship and want our ties with the Soviet people, together with whom we waged the struggle during the war years against a common enemy—fascism—to develop and strengthen."

V.Ya. Plechko, USSR ambassador to Malta, was present at the meetings and talks.

Visit Summed Up

LD241756 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1245 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Valletta, 24 Apr (TASS)—TASS special correspondent Aleksey Golyayev reports: The official visit to Malta by a USSR Supreme Soviet delegation headed by Tenghiz Menteshashvili, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, ended today. Meetings and conversations were held with Paul Xuereb, the acting president of the Republic; Prime Minister Edward Fenech Adami; Jimmy Farrugia, speaker of the House of Representatives; ministers and parliamentarians; with Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici, leader of the opposition; and with Anthony Vassallo, secretary general of the Communist Party of Malta.

The delegation visited Malta's industrial enterprises, a shipyard, an exhibition at the Malta-USSR society for friendship and cultural relations, devoted to the 118th anniversary of the birth of V.I. Lenin, and Gozo Island, where it was received by Anton Tabone, minister of Gozo.

The Soviet delegation gave a press conference. Speaking there, the head of the delegation said: The title-page of the chronicle of parliamentary links between the two countries, intended to occupy an important place in

Soviet-Maltese relations, has been completed. The Soviet Union is committed to consistently expanding multilateral relations with Malta, guided by the principles of sovereign equality, mutual advantage, noninterference in one another's internal affairs and respect for Malta's status as a neutral state conducting a policy of nonalignment. It is important that the two sides do have a common view in favor of intensifying efforts and a creative search with regard to Soviet-Maltese relations.

The head of the Soviet delegation pointed to the need to organize new forms of trade and economic cooperation, above all such forms as the creation of joint enterprises.

Satisfaction was expressed at the exchange of views held on international topics, stressing discussion of the problems of Europe and the Mediterranean, including Soviet initiatives, submitted by M.S. Gorbachev in Yugoslavia in the interests of security in that region.

Europe's problems are tightly interwoven with the fate of the entire world. Malta welcomed the INF Treaty which, as we see it, is in direct correspondence with the interests of its own security.

The Soviet Union welcomes Malta's active role in the Nonaligned Movement, which makes a weighty contribution to forming the new political thinking, appropriate to the realities of the nuclear space age.

Stress was laid on the possibility of deepening political dialogue and mutual understanding between the USSR and Malta in the interests of curbing the arms race and of disarmament, of normalization of the situation, and of detente in Europe, and of removing the sources of conflict and tension in various regions of the world, including the Mediterranean.

The members of the Soviet delegation answered questions from journalists and briefed them, inter alia, on the course of restructuring in the USSR.

Vladimir Plechko, USSR ambassador to the Republic of Malta, attended the talks and meetings of the Soviet delegation.

Latin America & Caribbean

Commentary on Panama Lifting State of Emergency

PA2504200488 Moscow Radio Peace and Progress in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Panama's Legislative Assembly voted in favor of ending the country's state of emergency. The state of emergency was decreed following the foiled coup d'etat attempt in March by a group of officers who had studied in the United States.

The ending of the state of emergency is proof that the Panamanian Government's position is strong against the massive, monolithic pressure of U.S. imperialism. Taking advantage of the country's serious economic situation, which is due to the U.S. economic blockade against Panama, the reactionaries are trying to gain the support of the people. The people have been promised that, as soon as the current political leaders step down from the political scene, the current situation will right itself.

The national economy is in serious difficulty, Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni stated. In an interview with the newpaper LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA, Rognoni categorically denied what right-wing opposition leaders have been saying, that once the country's political crisis is overcome, there will be many million-dollar U.S. loans.

Meanwhile, the Panamanian Government has asked the SELA [Latin American Economic System] for a loan from the Latin American central banks for $50 million to pay domestic bills, using as collateral the funds frozen in U.S. banks. Judging by the latest news, the SELA is ready to come to Panama's rescue. This, naturally, would be a new blow to the U.S. economic blockade, which is crumbling all over. They even recognize this in principle in the United States, where one hears voices saying that the Panamanian Government needs to be punished.

The United States will not promise to preclude the possibility of an armed intervention in Panama, Vernon Walters, the U.S. permament representative before the United Nations, said at a Buenos Aires news conference. He is touring Latin American countries, where he is to ascertain the attitude of the area's countries toward U.S. policy in Panama, and he is trying to pressure them into becoming anti-Panamanian countries.

Meanwhile, the Pentagon is attempting to inflate anti-Panamanian hysteria in the United States, issuing communiques to U.S. citizens regarding attacks by unknown persons against Yankee military installations in the canal area. They allege that the reponsibility for these incidents lies with the Panamanian Army.

The unprecedented U.S. attack against Panama is still in effect. For example, THE WASHINGTON POST says that the United States is nearing an armed intervention of Panama in one way or another. One gets the impression that some people in the United States are losing their sense of reality and feel nostalgic over the times when the United States, without thinking twice, applied the Big Stick policy in Latin America. Those times are long gone, which is eloquently evident in the Latin American reaction over U.S. anti-Panamanian actions.

Ecuadoran parliamentarians demanded from the United States that it respect the principles of international law and stop meddling in Panama's domestic affairs. The Ecuadoran National Congress' special commission on

international affairs demanded that the country's government should promote the OAS summons to outline steps to normalize the Panamanian situation. Many of the countries on the continent have approved such resolutions. Once more, this makes it very clear that the old days of gunboat diplomacy have receded into history forever, but those who think they can revive it are very much mistaken.

Panama's Abadia Notes U.S. 'Hostile Actions'

LD260933 Moscow TASS in English 0728 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] New York April 26 TASS—Panama's Foreign Minister Jorge Abadia Arias, in a letter to U.N. Secretary General Perez de Cuellar, has informed the international community of U.S. hostile actions against Panama, which were undertaken in violation of the principles and norms of the U.N. Charter and which imperil the international peace and security.

The U.S. Armed Forces are carrying out large-scale exercises on Panama's territory, says the letter which was circulated here on Monday. The U.S. military might is being built up, accompanied by a heightening of acts of destabilization, pressure and economic blockade and also other steps obviously designed to overthrow the legitimate government of the country. These actions, the minister underlines, testify to preparations for an armed aggression against the people of Panama.

The U.S. actions signify that the U.S. Government is departing from the provisions of the Panama Canal treaties and is undertaking steps towards actually establishing a military occupation zone on the territory of the Republic, the document underlines. It calls upon the international community to display solidarity with Panama in order to thwart the dangerous U.S. plans of destabilising the situation in the country.

U.S. Extends Trade Embargo on Nicaragua

LD260822 Moscow TASS in English 0811 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Washington April 26 TASS—On Monday President Reagan announced a decision to extend for another year the trade embargo against Nicaragua.

The U.S. President's statement circulated by the White House asserts that "the actions and policies of the Government of Nicaragua continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States".

Reagan also stated that, in his view, it was essential to carry on the policy of economic pressure on the Sandinista government in order to ensure, in particular, an effective support on the part of the United States "for democratic opposition in Nicaragua", as contra forces are referred to in Washington.

News agencies recall that the trade embargo against Nicaragua was imposed by the United States in May 1985.

Ortega Urges Blockade Lift

LD250709 Moscow TASS in English 0620 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Managua April 25 TASS—TASS correspondent Andrey Kurguzov reports:

The president of Nicaragua has urged the Reagan administration to lift the economic blockade against his country as a token of observance of the Guatemala accords and the agreements which were signed at Sapoa between the Nicaraguan Government and the armed opposition and which are aimed at achieving national reconciliation.

Speaking at a meeting with foremost workers of the agrarian sector, Daniel Ortega stated that the trade-and-economic embargo imposed three years ago was a gross trampling upon the norms of international law and inter-state relations, and a violation of laws by the United States itself.

The economic sanctions are indicative of Washington's desire to subordinate our country to the imperialist diktat, he emphasized.

Most Americans, the Nicaraguan president went on to say, come out in favour of lifting the discriminatory economic measures against Nicaragua and normalizing bilateral relations.

Besides, the economic blockade runs counter to the efforts of the peoples and governments of the region that signed agreements in Guatemala City in quest of ways to settle the conflict peacefully and to build mutual trust, Daniel Ortega stated.

Shestopalov Attends Cuban Embassy Reception

PM251049 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "To Mark the Anniversary"]

[Text] On 19 April Colonel R. Marrero Gomez, military, naval, and air attache at the Cuban Embassy in the Soviet Union, gave a reception to mark the 27th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron.

The reception was attended by Marshal of Engineer Troops N.F. Shestopalov, USSR deputy defense minister, and by generals, admirals, and officers of the Soviet Armed Forces.

The guests included military, naval, and air attaches at the embassies of foreign states in Moscow.

Cuban Wish for U.S. Dialogue Noted on Jubilee

PM251319 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Moiseyev article: "Lessons of Playa Giron: A Look Back at the Past and Thoughts About the Future"]

[Excerpts] Playa Giron, Havana—On 19 April, fraternal Cuba celebrates the anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron. In the fighting against the imperialist hirelings 27 years ago, the people of the Island of Freedom defended their motherland's independence and sovereignty and their right to build a new life. [passage omitted]

Nowadays tourists stroll across Playa Giron. I thought to myself: It is a pity that there are no Americans here. Official Washington does not allow them to visit Cuba, yet so many would come here from the very best of motives—to bask in the tropical sun, to bathe in the gentle waves of the Caribbean, and to take a closer look at the way Cubans live. They could learn a lot by looking at the obelisks to the defenders of Playa Giron placed along the roadside. But unfortunately, the U.S. political and economic embargo against Cuba remains a regrettable and vexing fact. And how out of touch with the spirit of the times it is! I believe that both peoples really do want to improve the general climate. But that is a desire of the peoples, not the groups of embittered conservatives. This desire takes various forms. U.S. cultural figures invite Cuban singers, poets, and artists to their country, and vice versa. Contacts are being established between scientists. Here is a recent example. U.S. and Cuban researchers held a meeting in Havana from 4-6 April this year. The theme of their discussions was "Relations Between Cuba and the United States in the Nineties." In the calm, working atmosphere of the meeting, they discussed a whole range of global problems to do with mutual relations, questions of the two countries' national security, potential for establishing normal trade ties between them, and the legal bases for a possible future normalization of U.S.-Cuban relations.

A move from confrontation to dialogue based on the new thinking, goodwill, and mutual respect and, thereafter, to talks and a discussion of the great number of problems which have built up over almost 30 years, and to the constructive settlement of the differences of opinion... That may seem a naive illusion today. However, if you think about it, there is no rational alternative. The thinking based on force—as an increasing number of people realize—has now become extraordinarily dangerous for mankind. "We do not want eternal antagonism between the United States and Cuba," Fidel Castro said in an interview. "We are ready to live in peace with the United States and believe that the day will come when U.S. policy will be wiser than now...." [passage omitted]

Standing beside those obelisks, you find yourself thinking: Have the U.S. authorities not learned the appropriate lesson from their defeat at Playa Giron?

One of the main lessons is that now, as in the past, and to an even greater extent in the future, intimidation, pressure, and blackmail will not be able to shake the Cuban people's determination to follow their chosen path. [passage omitted]

Political & Social

Party Decision on Housing Cooperatives Noted

PM211535 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 88 Second Edition pp 1-2

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers. The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers Have Adopted a Resolution 'On Measures To Accelerate the Development of Housing Cooperatives'"]

[Text] The resolution notes that involving citizens' funds on a voluntary basis in financing housing construction will make it possible to accelerate the resolution of the task set by the 27th party congress of ensuring that every Soviet family has its own apartment or an individual house by the year 2000 and will promote the retention of cadres, the shaping of a careful attitude to property, the creation of a better balance between the population's growing monetary income and expenditure, and the stepping up of workers' interest in improving labor productivity and boosting wages.

The situation prevailing in the country regarding the development of housing construction cooperatives does not accord with the population's potential and needs.

Many union republic councils of ministers, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR Gosstroy, construction and other ministries and departments, and local party, soviet, and economic organs undervalue the sociopolitical importance of housing construction cooperatives and are geared to building housing mainly through state funds. As a result millions of citizens have for years been forced to wait in line before becoming members of housing construction cooperatives. The construction plans for cooperative apartment blocks systematically fail to be fulfilled. The scale of this construction has to all intents and purposes remained static for the last 20 years. Questions of the organization of housing construction cooperatives, the allocation of land, and the drawing up of project cost estimate documentation take a long time because of formal and bureaucratic approaches. Construction organizations are not interested in building cooperative apartment blocks—they take considerably longer than scheduled to build them and hand them over. Enterprises, associations, and organizations make poor use of the opportunities available to them in helping workers joining housing construction cooperatives, in building apartments for them, and in providing facilities for the construction site.

Existing legislation on questions of cooperative housing construction contains unjustified restrictions and hampers its development. The existing planning and financing system fails to ensure the proper interest of local organs in expanding this kind of housing construction.

The CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers deemed it necessary to substantially step up the role of housing cooperatives as one of the main directions for expanding housing construction and meeting the population's growing demands for housing. On this basis, union republic Communist Party central committees, party kraykoms and obkoms, union and autonomous republic councils of ministers, local ispolkoms, USSR ministries and departments, enterprises, associations, organizations, and all party, soviet, economic, trade union, and Komsomol organizations must resolutely alter their attitude to cooperative housing construction and at least double or triple its share of the overall volume of housing construction in the country by the end of the 13th 5-Year Plan. Young people's activeness in developing housing cooperatives must be supported in every possible way.

A new way for citizens to participate with their own funds in improving their own housing conditions—housing cooperatives created on a voluntary basis for acquiring (purchasing) new or substantially renovated blocks from enterprises, associations, organizations, and local ispolkoms and subsequently operating them—has been defined in addition to existing housing construction cooperatives.

Housing construction cooperatives are also entitled to acquire (purchase) apartment blocks suitable for renovation or modernization, to repair them, and to subsequently operate them.

With a view to simplifying as far as possible the cooperatives' organization and functioning, the USSR Gosplan, the USSR Gosstroy, and the USSR Ministry of Finance have been instructed to develop together with the USSR Bank of Housing and Municipal Services and Social Development, the USSR Savings Bank, the USSR State Committee for Statistics, the AUCCTU, and union republic councils of ministers a procedure for planning and financing the construction and sale of cooperative apartment blocks, and to ratify it by 1 October 1988.

In order to create a material interest for local ispolkoms they have been permitted to set bonuses of up to 15 percent of the cost of cooperative blocks situated in the most suitable suburbs and localities for residence. It is also envisaged that the total deposit and monthly rent paid for apartments by members of housing cooperatives shall be taken into consideration in allocating the targets, established by the corresponding enterprises and local organs under which the cooperatives have been set up, for providing paid services to the population.

In accordance with the principle of social justice a list of people has been drawn up who are entitled to join cooperatives, among whom are categories of citizens enjoying privileges. Those citizens registered for an improvement in their housing conditions are to be given preference in joining cooperatives, as are primarily production front-rankers, Great Patriotic War invalids and

participants, families of dead servicemen and persons of equivalent status, servicemen who stay on after the draft, warrant officers, ensigns, and members of the officer corps discharged from active service by reason of age or state of health, and people of equivalent status, and labor veterans and citizens who transfer the living quarters they occupy in the state and public housing stock to enterprises and local ispolkoms.

Preferential financing and credit conditions are envisaged for housing cooperatives in order to ensure that broad sections of the population are able to purchase cooperative apartments. Cooperative members pay not less than 25 percent of the cost of the apartments out of their own pocket, and not less than 20 percent in the regions of the Far North and equivalent areas, the Far East, Siberia, the Kazakh SSR, mining settlements, and the countryside. The residual cost of the apartments is paid off over the course of 25 years. In addition, they are able to open a credit account of up to R5,000 repayable over 10 years with the USSR Savings Bank in order to pay their deposit.

Associations, kolkhozes, and other cooperative and social organizations have been instructed to make more extensive use of economic incentive funds with a view to further developing cooperative housing construction enterprises. They have been instructed to give their workers non-refundable financial assistance in paying off the loan on cooperative housing of between 10 and 50 percent of the total loan on the apartment, depending on the worker's experience and attitude to work. In certain cases such assistance in paying off loans may, at the decision of labor collectives, be on an even larger scale.

It has been laid down that local ispolkoms may provide financial assistance under the same procedure and in the same amounts toward purchases of cooperative housing by workers at educational institutions and organizations, health care and other institutions, and other organizations in the nonproduction sphere maintained by them, and to Great Patriotic War invalids and participants, and families of dead servicemen and persons of equivalent status registered with ispolkoms as requiring improved housing conditions.

When lacking sufficient funds of their own, enterprises, organizations, and local ispolkoms may draw on bank credit of up to 50 percent of the projected cost of housing for the construction of apartment blocks with a view to reselling them to housing cooperatives. They have been instructed to finance part of the spending linked with site preparation and the provision of utilities for sites for constructing cooperative housing.

In order to improve the housing conditions of citizens who have come from other parts of the country and worked for not less than 10 years in regions of the Far North and equivalent areas, union and autonomous republic councils of ministers and local ispolkoms have been instructed to provide every possible assistance in organizing housing construction and housing cooperatives for the aforesaid persons and to ensure the rational siting of these cooperatives in the territories under their jurisdiction, taking account of the features of the social and demographic situation in various regions and cities. And they should proceed on the basis that such cooperatives may be set up in all population centers apart from union republic capital cities, Moscow, Leningrad, Moscow Oblast, and resort areas of union and republic significance.

The task has been set of taking effective measures within a short period to eradicate the serious shortcomings in planning and constructing cooperative housing and, in addition, to develop and extensively utilize progressive plans for apartment blocks distinguished by the high standard of their architectural and planning solutions and their reduced construction cost. At cooperatives' request and at their expense plans may envisage the construction of garages, sports, cultural, consumer, and economic premises incorporated in the apartment blocks. The cost of the construction of cooperative housing must be determined on the basis of plans and the price and norm estimates laid down for state housing construction.

The USSR Gosstroy, construction ministries, and union republic councils of ministers have been instructed to complete the transition of housing construction combines, plants manufacturing reinforced concrete products, and wood processing enterprises to producing structures and parts for new standard projects with improved apartment planning in the remaining years of the 12th 5-Year Plan.

To satisfy the population's demands more fully and to make rational use of materials in fitting out apartments it is planned to considerably expand the practice of carrying out work to ensure an improved finish and to fit out cooperative housing and apartments on the basis of orders and at the expense of the members of housing and housing construction cooperatives. In order to carry out this work it is planned, in particular, to make active use of construction cooperatives and cooperatives specializing in consumer services to the population.

State architectural construction monitoring organs and state acceptance commissions have been instructed to step up work to strictly monitor the standards, norms, and regulations pertaining to the planning, construction, and commissioning of housing in order to entirely rule out cases of substandard buildings being accepted. Construction organizations are obliged to eradicate out of their own pocket any defects for which they are to blame that may be discovered during a 2-year guarantee period from the day that cooperative housing is commissioned.

Union and autonomous republic councils of ministers and local ispolkoms have been instructed to ensure that cooperative apartment blocks are built, as a rule, in areas of mass residential housing with roads and main utilities

and located as near as possible to the enterprises and organizations whose workers comprise the majority of the members in the corresponding cooperative. All possible assistance is to be given to newly organized housing and housing construction cooperatives, and to existing cooperatives in ensuring the proper running and maintenance of cooperative apartment blocks.

With a view to further developing housing construction by own-resources methods, enterprises and organizations in the construction and construction materials industries have been instructed to expand the practice of supplying enterprises and associations engaged in housing construction using these methods with construction materials, structures, and articles on a contractual basis, to lease them construction machinery, and to carry out mechanized and other types of work.

Enterprises, associations, and organizations engaged in constructing housing using own-resources methods are entitled to independently lay down the time taken to drawn up and issue project cost estimate documentation on the basis of the specific conditions of the work in question.

The USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting and the USSR State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade have been instructed to systematically give television, radio, and press coverage to the front-ranking experience of labor collectives in developing cooperative housing construction and to extensively inform the population about the advantages of this kind of housing construction and the terms and privileges granted to members of housing cooperatives.

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Council of Ministers expressed confidence that party and soviet organs, social organizations, and labor collectives would make every effort to spread the construction of cooperative apartment blocks and thereby make a tangible contribution to improving housing conditions and enhancing Soviet people's prosperity.

Apartment Promised for Each Family Before 2000
AU211412 Kiev RADYANSKA UKRAINA in Ukrainian 14 Apr 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "In the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee"]

[Text] The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo has examined the organizational and political work performed by Lvov Oblast party organizations to ensure that associations, enterprises, and organizations change to the new management conditions.

The adopted decision notes that the oblast has been carrying out work in this sector, and that in the sphere of economic and social development, changes for the better have become apparent. At the same time the obkom and party committees do not make full use of political methods in leading the restructuring processes, and do not motivate basic party organizations to prepare enterprises well for work under the new conditions and to actively apply the Law on the State Enterprise (Association) in order to promote economic accountability and self-financing. Measures have been defined to intensify organizational and political work.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers have approved a comprehensive program worked out by the Ukrainian SSR Gosplan and Ministry of Housing and Communal Services with the participation of other ministries and departments, to provide each family with a separate apartment or individual house before the year 2000, and to develop a base for housing construction and the production of building materials in the Ukrainian SSR.

The Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee and Council of Ministers have adopted a decision on Ukrainian SSR state prizes to be awarded for outstanding work achievements scored in 1987. The decision will be published in the press.

At its session, the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Politburo has summed up the 1987 results of socialist competitions among oblasts and the cities of Kiev and Sevastopol to implement the comprehensive program for producing consumer goods and for services in the Ukrainian SSR.

Goskomstat: Population Exceeds 285 Million
LD251442 Moscow TASS in English 1413 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The population of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) was 285.2 million as of April 1, the USSR State Committee for Statistics announced today.

Preparations for Party Conference Under Way
OW241059 Moscow International Service in Mandarin 0600 GMT 24 Apr 88

[Text] Preparations for the CPSU's 19th All-Union Conference, which will open at the end of June, are well under way in the Soviet Union. The Turkmen and Estonian Communist Party Central Committees held plenary sessions on Saturday during which the issue of Soviet social political structural reform, including democratization of inner party life, was discussed and the process of economic reform was analyzed. These questions will be the central topics of discussion at the forthcoming party congress.

Changes in Conference Elections Urged

PM221400 Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 21 Apr 88 p 2

[Article by Yuriy Andreyev, CPSU member since 1956 and member of the USSR Writers' Union Board, under the rubric "19th All-Union Party Conference: I Propose for Discussion!": "Before It Is Too Late"]

[Text] Leningrad—The vast majority of the people and the party want the all-union party conference to mark a really revolutionary change in all spheres of our people's life, and above all to resolve questions of restructuring in our party milieu.

We pin great hopes on the decisions of the 19th party conference, as long as they help to release the vast, hitherto unutilized reserves that are latent in us, in literally every individual and in the state as a whole.

But what if these decisions are half-hearted, hedged about with reservations, and lacking a fusion of excellent initial theses and concrete means of implementing them, as is now often the case with the majority of major laws that are adopted, which have progressive-looking headings but are extremely difficult to execute?.. That would be a major, really overwhelming calamity, and not only for our country.

But where, in fact, do these fears come from? This is where they come from. As was noted in the report at the recent Leningrad CPSU Obkom plenum, the vast majority of activists polled on the eve of that plenum, which was devoted to ideological problems, "regard conservatism in all its forms, and the passivity that is usually associated with it, as the main braking factor. Of the 16,000 Leningraders who sent in responses to the 'Ideology and Restructuring' questionnaire, 90 percent also describe these trends as the most dangerous" (LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 12 April 1988). A. Varsobin, chief editor of LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, also cited these figures: "We cannot ignore the fact that in 1987 there was a thirtyfold increase in the number of letters to the editorial office about formal, bureaucratic attitudes to citizens' statements, a fivefold increase in letters about violations of labor legislation, and a twofold increase in those about communists' violations of statutory requiements. One cannot help wondering: Where are the party organizations, why has no substantial progress been made on these questions?"

So where are the guarantees, one wonders, that these highly conservative figures, ossified in their bureaucratically soulless attitude to their own fellow citizens and their worries and interests, will not be the very people who are elected delegates to the 19th party conference, and that the right to decide what our common future will be will not be put into the hands of precisely these active (or passive) opponents of restructuring? There are no such guarantees! In fact, on the contrary, the entire experience of the past virtually guarantees that it is these people, the ancient leadership workers who have grown roots in various kinds of apparatus, members of various party committees, including high-level ones, who will do everything to ensure that they automatically make up the vast majority of party conference delegates.

The paradox of the situation also lies in the fact that many of the most active supporters of restructuring, its true fighters, who have emerged since the 27th CPSU Congress, naturally do not belong to any elected party organs, because the full range of elections took place before the congress. It is also a paradox that those who are most active ideologically in expressing and forming public opinion—writers and philosophers, current affairs writers and economists, historians and journalists, and representatives of creative unions—also do not, as a rule, belong to city, oblast, or republican party organs, since the majority of them found their voices at the congresses of their creative unions, which took place after the 27th party congress. Unfortunately among the members of party committees there are many obedient, obliging figures, convenient mouthpieces for those braking forces. Consequently the direct, outstanding forerunners of the restructuring, those workers in literature, culture, and art who predetermined yesterday and determine today the tone of the era of democratization and glasnost, might not be elected.

Given the present system for elections, it could quite logically happen that the conservative minority, which upholds without mercy for anyone or anything the only system that suits it and is convenient to it, the command-and-administer system, will turn out to be in the majority at the forthcoming historic forum, which is called upon to define fundamentally new paths for us.

A revolution must be able to defend its gains, its goals, and its ideals, or else it is not a revolution, but only noisy talk about revolution, as I and many others believe.

That being so, the procedure for nominating delegates to the all-union party conference must depart from the routine, customary procedure! It should be not so much the fact that someone has been installed in his leadership post for a long time, as his active, creative, constructive spirit that should be the mandate for the crucial 19th party conference! It should not be an official post or the number of awards gained, sometimes honestly but often by distribution, but the personal contribution to the ideology and practice of restructuring that should mark out the delegates. Only the one who is really the most active out of every 3,780 party members should be elected. (Incidentally, that rate of representation is determined by... the size of the hall in the Kremlin Palace of Congresses—5,000 seats. There will be no less than 5,000 delegates. But perhaps only 1,500 true, impassioned fighters for restructuring would suffice?...) I am not sure that the experienced apparatchik cadres, who have already on many occasions taken cover behind all

kinds of instructions which they themselves had generated, will be wholeheartedly concerned with precisely this task of electing the true leaders as delegates. More likely they will do precisely the opposite of what the times demand. They will act calmly on the basis of the instruction on elections to the conference that is formulated very comfortably for themselves.

Before it is too late, an amendment to the instruction should be drawn up and introduced strictly, so as not only to permit, but to require oblast, kray, and republican party organizations to give unequivocal preference in the elections to those communists who have won a reputation, through their deeds, as the foremen of restructuring: bold ideologists, leading, if refractory, production workers, out-of-the-ordinary farm leaders, and, of course, the heralds of glasnost, fighters for democratization, active workers in creative unions. Before it is too late! The shadow of the paradox is advancing rapidly and very perceptibly. To paraphrase the proverb, let me say: The stable door must be shut, before the horse has bolted...

Popov Seeks Limit on Apparat Delegates

PM211037 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 12 Apr 88 p 1

[Article by Doctor of Economic Sciences Gavriil Popov under "Viewpoint: Pace, Quality, Thrift" rubric: "Leading Link"]

[Excerpt] Moscow—[Passage omitted] Our restructuring has reached a critical stage. We cannot achieve the most effective option in the economy without restructuring our policies.

Yes, it is impossible to expect immediate growth in income in the restructuring period—that is utopia. But there is one benefit which everyone can profit from immediately. This benefit is democracy, the sense of being in control of one's own life, and the resulting feeling of deep confidence that if we solve everything now ourselves, the heavy legacy of our past will certainly be overcome. The difficulties will be temporary. They cannot be avoided, unfortunately. We are having to pay for the decades spent zealously applauding at meetings.

This approach to our restructuring can be put into practice by the 19th all-union party conference, where it is intended to agree to a decision on the problems of economic reform and democratization. But we have to make a start now—with the procedure for electing delegates to the conference. Considering the exceptional importance of the forthcoming party forum, it would clearly be expedient to reconsider the procedure for electing delegates to it. Perhaps the delegates should include members and candidate members of the CPSU Central Committee, members of the government and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, members of the republic Communist Party Central Committee bureaus, obkom secretaries, and oblispolkom chairmen. But they must account for no more than one-third of the total number of delegates; it would be a good idea to elect the remaining two-thirds directly in primary party organizations combined in electoral districts. A party organization can be incorporated at its own wish in a district formed on either a territorial or a production basis.

Then in the first stage each organization will elect two candidates to the district list by secret ballot and on a competitive basis. In the second stage all the candidates will address all the organizations in the district. In the third stage whoever collects the highest number of votes in a secret ballot will be elected delegate. In this way we can hope not to limit ourselves at the conference to discussing restructuring as an administrative exercise but to really look for solutions leading to revolutionary changes.

Maximum incentives and powers for labor collectives in the economy. Maximum rights and responsibility in policy-making. Only with this combination is success ensured.

Readers Write to Restructuring's Opponents

PM221525 [Editorial Report] Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian on 16 April 1988 carries on page 7 a full-page roundup of readers' letters under the headline "'More Democracy—More Socialism.'"

A brief editorial introduction says: "After all, it is no secret that after certain recent (and confused!) articles many people, including some party and soviet workers, ideologues, and social scientists, have felt perplexed.

"Of course, not all those who have displayed this attitude to such articles are active antirestructuring forces."

It goes on to note that "at the same time the forces who have accepted with their hearts and their minds the ideas of restructuring, the principles reaffirmed in the [5 April 1988] PRAVDA editorial article, are gaining in strength in the polemical debate and uncompromising struggle.

"The number of such people, as our mailbag bears witness, is growing daily."

A letter from party veteran M. Kobrin warns against the danger of adopting an "ostrich-like" attitude to right-wing ideas as manifested in the N. Andreyeva article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on 13 March, suggesting that it is time to stop using "euphemisms" regarding restructuring's enemies.

Muscovite A. Barsov, while underlining the danger of dictatorship in general and Stalinist dictatorship in particular and advocating "socialist pluralism," questions whether "freedom of expression should be granted to the enemies of that freedom" and arguing that "it is stupid

and dangerous to treat the supporters of totalitarianism 'on equal terms.'" He concludes that "there is no alternative to restructuring and democratization."

I. Kononov, a CPSU member and lecturer from Voroshilovgrad, does not subscribe to the view that ideals are destroyed by investigation of the past but thinks that the "honest depiction of the tragic episodes of our history, on the contrary, has generated unusual interest in Marxist theory among students." He regrets that "many leaders in our oblast accepted the article 'I Cannot Waive My Principles' as the long-awaited word of truth. Our oblast newspaper, VOROSHILOVGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, reprinted it. Propagandists were strenuously advised to make the masses aware of it."

I. Raskin, a teacher from Moscow, says that it is not enough to lift an "external ban on thinking," that there has to be an internal need to liberate one's mind from the bonds of habit. He argues that it is not fortuitous that the "apprehensions of the Leningrad schoolteacher met with sympathy in schools." He castigates fellow schoolteachers for "defending the right not to think."

Sergey Magarin, an economist from Moscow, highlights the nexus between the cult of personality and bureaucracy:

"It is wrong to explain the origins of the personality cult only by the features of Stalin's personality. No personality, even an outstanding one, is capable of exerting a marked influence on the progress of events without relying on particular social forces. On whom, then, did Stalin rely? The working class? The peasantry? The working intelligentsia? The strengthening party and state bureaucracy, which saw a reliable assurance of its leading role in society in a system based on a 'powerful personality,' became his bulwark."

Prof G. Zborovskiy from Sverdlovsk, in the context of the SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA and PRAVDA articles—the former reprinted in oblast newspapers "on prompting from above"—says that a "sizable number of teachers think and behave in a way that varies little from prerestructuring times." A certain section of the party apparatus is also unprepared for restructuring and wants to conserve the old system, he claims.

M. Rybalkin from Irkutsk claims that the enemies of restructuring are defending their own vested interests but that the braking mechanism does not comprise bureaucrats alone. It also has a social base in workers who do not wish to bestir themselves and are content with phenomena such as wage-leveling.

The final letter, from Doctor of Historical Sciences Ye. Plimak of Moscow, complains that the "historical sciences have as yet done little during the years of restructuring to create a meaningful, in-depth, and true picture of our past and develop a conception of the history of socialism that dialectically explains its contradictions and complex processes."

Georgian 'Sacked' After Typhoid Outbreak

AU261149 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow, April 26 (AFP)—The Communist Party boss of an autonomous region inside the Soviet Republic of Georgia, Feliks Sanakoyev, was sacked last Saturday after a serious outbreak of typhoid in the region's main town this month, the daily KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA reported Tuesday. The paper said that no deaths had been reported, but the last typhoid case was admitted to hospital only six days ago, after the outbreak reached its peak between April 11 and 15 with more than 100 people hospitalized and 60 confirmed typhoid cases.

As concern mounted in the regional capital of Tskhinvali, a town of 33,000 people, local residents on April 17 staged a demonstration outside party headquarters calling for action to stop contamination of the water supply and for sanctions against negligent party offcials, the paper said. According to a local resident contacted by AFP, 5,000 people took part in the protest.

The paper denounced the "catastrophic lack" of drinking water in Tskhinvali, the capital of the South Ossetian Autonomous Oblast, where "at best" water was available only in the morning and the evening, and "often not at all." The town's water supply was not chlorinated, and construction of new water channels had fallen behind schedule, it said. The first typhoid cases were confirmed after residents had complained about the poor quality of the drinking water in an official study.

An inquiry has been ordered into the outbreak, involving the southern republic's top specialists. Georgian First Secretary Dzhumber Patiashvili presided at Saturday's meeting of party officials which fired Mr. Sanakoyev.

CC Member Khachaturov Interviewed on Azerbaijan

JN241730 Paris AL-MUSTAQBAL in Arabic 23 Apr 88 pp 26, 27

[Interview with Karen Armenovich Khachaturov, CPSU Central Committee member and deputy chairman of the board of NOVOSTI, by AL-MUSTAQBAL in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] AL-MUSTAQBAL: Will you please brief us on the current conflict between Nagorno-Karabakh and the inhabitants of the Azerbaijan SSR which resulted in the killing or wounding of a number of people?

Khachaturov: Before talking in detail about these events and their reasons, I should refer to an important point that for 70 years there have been calls for annexing Nagorno-Karabakh to the Armenian SSR. But these calls have failed. Regarding the clashes and their motivations, I can say that Nagorno-Karabakh, which has about 2,000 inhabitants, was deprived of all forms of progress in the various areas. In other words, the party officials in the

Azerbaijan SSR, some of them Armenians, did not pay any attention to Nagorno-Karabakh. Moreover, we have to admit bravely that throughout the years of deprivation, the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh were the target of racial discrimination by some officials in the Azerbaijan SSR. This resulted in the deterioration of the economic, cultural, and educational situation in the Azerbaijan SSR compared to the situation in the Armenian SSR. In addition to that, some former officials in the Azerbaijan SSR ignored the characteristics of the inhabitants of Nagorno-Karabakh. These abnormal events have accumulated throughout the years and the conflict erupted.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Can we say that officials in the Azerbaijan SSR have behaved in this way over the past years without Moscow's knowledge? Can we hold them, especially Geydar Aliev, responsible for that?

Khachaturov: Of course we cannot. Most officials over the past years are responsible for what had happened. Therefore, the new administration led by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev carried out a large-scale purge in the state and party organs in all Soviet republics and autonomous oblasts. As we are talking about Nagorno-Karabakh, we can say that some officials not only in the Azerbaijan SSR, but also in the Armenian SSR, have contributed to this situation over the past years through bribes, corruption, and political practices that conflict with Leninist Internationalism. Through their party and official practices, Geydar Aliyev and other officials retreated from the principles of Leninist Internationalism, and moved from legal and party affiliations to personal affiliations.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Is there any fear that the conflict will turn from an ethnic into a sectarian conflict similar to the conflict in Lebanon?

Khachaturov: That cannot happen at all, particularly as the new administration led by Comrade Gorbachev is aware of the malaise and is trying very hard to find a remedy as soon as possible.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: The remedy according to the Armenian leader Muradyan is to return Nagorno-Karabakh to the Armenian SSR?

Khachaturov: Nagorno-Karabakh is part of the Azerbaijan SSR and will remain so. The Soviet Constitution and the Azerbaijan SSR Constitution cannot be violated for the sake of a small autonomous oblast. However, I emphasize that Moscow is trying hard to find a just solution that ends the problem on sound and correct bases. I will allow myself to reveal that the CPSU congress, which meets every 5 years, will this year , for the first time in the CPSU's history, discuss in a detailed and profound manner the question of nationalities in the Soviet Union.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: Does that mean that Marxist theory has failed to tackle the issue of nationalities, and that the issue will be reassessed?

Khachaturov: Not at all. What happened is only that some officials have reneged on the Leninist nationality principles, and the new administration is seeking to redress the mistake and return the situation to normal.

AL-MUSTAQBAL: What solutions have been reached to resolve the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh?

Khachaturov: I will allow myself to reveal the steps which Moscow decided upon to end the problem. They are based on the following three points:

1. Improvement of the social and economic conditions of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh, giving them the same privileges enjoyed by the inhabitants of the Azerbaijan SSR and the Armenian SSR.

2. Giving cultural and educational autonomy to Nagorno-Karabakh by setting up a television station that transmits in Armenian, establishing a faculty of arts in which Armenian is the medium of instruction, and creating cultural and arts centers dedicated to Armenian literature and heritage. All that is to be done in coordination with the Armenian SSR. I should note here that in Nagorno-Karabakh there is a radio station that broadcasts in Armenian as well as a daily newspaper published in Armenian.

3. Development of the laws in the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast, development of the laws in the eight autonomous oblasts, and developemnt of the constitutions of the Soviet republics.

New Armenian TV in Nagorno-Karabakh Detailed

PM221549 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 9 Apr 88 p 1

[ARMENPRESS report: "Nagorno-Karabakh To Receive Armenian Television"]

[Text] Recently the press published the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers resolution on measures to accelerate the socioeconomic development of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in 1988-1995, which, in particular, instructs the USSR Ministry of Communications and the USSR State Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting to formulate in 1988 and implement in 1988-1989 a package of measures to ensure good-quality reception of all-union television programs for the population of Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast and the adjacent rayons, and also the full broadcasting to this region of Azerbaijani and Armenian television programs (with the possibility of relaying local television programs as part of these programs).

In this connection an ARMENPRESS correspondent asked A. Mirzoyan, Armenian SSR minister of communications, to say what specific steps are being taken to implement this task.

"A few days ago V. Shamshin, USSR minister of communications, B. Akhundov, Azerbaijan SSR minister of communications, and I," Ayriko Bagratovich said, "met in Stepanakert to study the situation on the spot and adopt corresponding measures to fulfill the demands made by the resolution you mentioned. As a result a protocol was signed whereby the inhabitants of Stepanakert, Askeran, and Shushi and the adjoining settlements will be able to watch Armenian television broadcasts as soon as early May this year. Work to further expand the television reception zone in Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast is outlined by the protocol. In addition, an extensive program of measures is also envisaged to organize radio broadcasting and expanding intercity telephone communications channels between Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast."

[Correspondent] How was this decision made in such a short time when fruitless talks have been going on about this issue for years?

[Mirzoyan] Two factors were basically at work here. First—genuine interest and responsibility on the part of all participants in the businesslike meeting regarding unconditional and good-quality fulfillment of the CPSU Central Committee resolution. And second—the high technical readiness of the television broadcasting system. It is necessary to offer a little explanation here. The comprehensive plan of joint measures by the Armenian, Georgian, and Azerbaijani Communist Party Central Committees to further develop international ties among the working peoples of the Transcaucasian republics in 1986-1990 included the following point: to study the question of the possibility of organizing reciprocal television reception by the Transcaucasian republics. In this respect the Armenian communications workers have carried out a large amount of work on the republic's territory. In particular, a radio relay line has been constructed between Yerevan and Goris, with the installation in Goris of a powerful retransmitter to beam television broadcasts from Soviet Armenia to the Azerbaijan SSR.

All this provides a good base for speedy implementation of the decisions adopted. Now the task of ensuring that Nagorno-Karabakh can without fail receive Armenian television broadcasts by the date I have indicated is being implemented through the joint efforts of Armenian and Azerbaijani communications workers.

[Correspondent] If I understood you correctly, an exchange of television broadcasts between the Transcaucasian republics is also planned.

[Mirzoyan] Quite correct. The prospect exists and is feasible. In the interests of daily spiritual contact among the peoples of the Transcaucasus it is planned to complete the formulation of general schemes to distribute full broadcasts of Armenian, Georgian, and Azerbaijani television in the territory of our three republics via satellite communications.

Armenian Paper Vilifies 'Anti-Soviet' Agitators

PM211201 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 7 Apr 88 p 3

[Article by A. Vartanyan and G. Daniyelyan under the rubric "Who's Who": "Masquerading as Patriots"]

[Text] There was a report in the republic press the other day about the Armenian SSR law enforcement bodies' arrest of Paruir Airikyan for committing unlawful actions. Who is he? His political and moral complexion is well known to those responsible for maintaining the rule of law in the state. But many readers, on hearing the name, wondered: What reprehensible thing had Airikyan done to deserve that severe restrictive measure?

In this connection it is necessary to reveal the true face of this person without any specific occupation who tries to pass himself off as a "public figure" and "fighter for Armenians' national interests." What is Airikyan's political credo and by what methods is he trying to operate?

His main aim is anti-Sovietism. And he will go to any lengths for it, even state crimes against his country. Criminal proceedings have been taken against him for such actions on two occasions—in 1970 and 1974. The law enforcement bodies were forced to adopt extreme measures because Airikyan had remained deaf to numerous warnings and explanations, to the voice of reason.

In performing his new role, Airikyan sought to involve in his activity ideologically and morally unstable young people without sufficient experience of life or firm beliefs. Airikyan was a shrewd operator, trying not to frighten them off with slogans that would have sounded preposterous to any normal Soviet person but poisoning their consciousness by degrees, beginning with apparently trivial assignments—painting hostile slogans on walls, distributing leaflets. Having gotten stuck in this mire, even those who were repentant were no longer able to escape from the influence of the "leader," fearing blackmail on his part. In time they would blindly perpetrate more brazen and dangerous escapades.

But anyone would agree that the political views of Airikyan and his myrmidons are profoundly alien to the people's interests. Moreover, they show that these people do not even know what motivates the people, what they are striving for, how they see their future. Indeed, you have to be a very "naive" person, to put it mildly, to seriously hope that by declaring Soviet Russia the "No 1 hostile state" you can gain popularity among the Armenian people. On the contrary, such slogans are the quick

way to alienation from a nation for which alliance with Russia and fraternity with the Russian people has been and remains the national credo, the bedrock of its philosophy of life.

Having failed to find support and understanding inside the country, Airikyan actively relied on the assistance of foreign anti-Soviet organizations and media, acting as their puppet. Knowing Airikyan's weakness, foreign patrons slowly fed his ambition and flattered his self-esteem, trying to make him an obedient instrument in their hands. At their prompting he carried out many actions which earned him an unenviable reputation among Western reactionary circles.

Having served his sentence, Airikyan again failed to draw the proper conclusions. A morbid hatred of the Soviet system and, most important, betrayal of the interests of his people again led him into a political blind alley. Nor did he retreat an inch from his personal ambition and vainglorious desire to keep his name and his "activities" in the headlines. On returning last year from his place of confinement, he in fact refused to find a job. The relevant bodies twice warned him of the need to work. But, as we can see, Soviet laws and human laws, for that matter, do not apply to Airikyan. Unlike all normal people, he does not want to earn a living through honest labor. He is not bothered at all about what his family—his wife Yelena Sirotenko and his children—are supposed to live on.

So this person's name cropped up in connection with recent events; moreover, it cropped up quite unexpectedly, because until then the life and problems of the population of Nagorno-Karabakh had meant absolutely nothing to Airikyan. The explanation lies elsewhere. The self-styled "figure" saw the events concerning the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast as an opportunity to expand his sphere of "influence" and strengthen his political reputation in the West.

With this object in mind, he attempted to get in on rallies. But the participants in the rallies rejected all Airikyan's appeals and slogans. People would interrupt his provocative speeches and ostentatiously tear up his leaflets. And this is natural, because Airikyan's views and goals are profoundly alien and hostile to the people's interests.

What about, for instance, the so-called "documents" which made the rounds of Airikyan's group of like minds—the "Official Statement" and the "Appeal to Azerbaijanis and Armenians"? They are an attempt to discredit the party's nationalities policy. Whom does that benefit? Does anyone seriously believe that Airikyan's "appeal" to Armenia to "quit the USSR" and his calls for "foreign troops to be introduced" could find the slightest support among the people? One wonders what foreign troops the "patriot" Airikyan had in mind, from which of the two states bordering us? How blasphemous you must be to suggest this to a people who for centuries languished beneath the yoke of aggessors, were pushed to the brink of physical annihilation, and thanks to the Russian people and Great October literally rose from the ashes and acquired the statehood, tranquility, and confidence they had lost long, long ago?!

Fabrications, no matter how cunning they might be, cannot conceal their nature: whether they serve good or evil. A certain Nagapetyan, who has nothing to do with Armenia, immediately flew to Yerevan and also tried to conceal his intentions behind the mask of "well-wisher" and "public figure," styling himself the representative of the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast in Moscow. But his first statements about strikes as a means of pressure and about the need to "declare Armenia a nonparty republic" immediately told people the purpose of his provocative activity. And people made it clear to Nagapetyan that they would not be dislodged from the course of reason and sober decisions, so he had better get out of town quick.

The outcome was inevitable. Airikyan and his myrmidons had badly blundered—no one had swallowed their provocative "slogans," the people had totally and unequivocally dissociated themselves from the handful of adventurists and anti-Soviets. And the people were right: The Armenian people have rejected and will continue to reject such anti-Soviets and turncoats. This is confirmed by the numerous letters from working people and the speeches made in recent days to labor collectives and student audiences angrily condemning the anti-Soviet and provocative activity of Airikyan and his kind.

Having failed among the masses, Airikyan set about collecting points in the West. This time acting as informer of foreign "voices" and news agencies susceptible to information and assessments smelling of anti-Sovietism. The purpose was clear: to destabilize the situation in the two Soviet republics and arouse distrust of Soviet power, socialism, and the Communist Party's nationalities policy.

The foreign "voices" are as indiscriminate as ever in their methods: To put it bluntly, they are selectively indiscriminate. They are not interested in the sources and authenticity of the information or the moral complexion of an informer such as Airikyan, who, incidentally, was once convicted of the mundane crime of bribery. As long as it is "news"—the more sensational and more damaging to the USSR, the better.

But let us not anticipate events—the investigation is taking its proper course and it will fully ascertain the extent of Paruir Airikyan's guilt before the law. But the people have already passed moral judgment, having duly assessed the anti-Soviet Airikyan's attempts to use the Nagorno-Karabakh Autonomous Oblast events in the game being played by forces hostile to socialism. Airikyan did not even have any qualms about discrediting his own compatriots, ascribing unlawful actions and slogans to them during those February days.

The true face of Paruir Airikyan is now visible to all. He was matched by a defender, a certain Grigoryants, who has never lived in Armenia and has no links at all with it, but is now at pains to pass himself off as the Armenians' "representative" in Moscow. Previously he had been the uninvited advocate of the Crimean Tatars and unauthorized champion of "prisoners of conscience" allegedly being kept in Soviet mental hospitals. Grigoryants uses the same arguments—lies and provocations—and makes as much noise as possible to get noticed in the West. Like Airikyan, Grigoryants is far removed from the concerns of Nagorno-Karabakh and of the Armenian people in general. A zealous anti-Soviet, Grigoryants, was organizing noisy press conferences back in February in his Moscow apartment for foreign correspondents and spreading malicious anti-Soviet rumors. Now he is trying unsuccessfully to cobble together a "committee" in defense of Airikyan, actively adding grist to the mill of the anti-Soviet campaign which has broken out in the West.

To be frank, the trouble makers at home and abroad have a common aim—to distort the restructuring and democratization that are being implemented in our country, undermine socialist relationships in the USSR, and discredit the Leninist nationalities policy. Their weapon is demagoguery and slander and their political line is enmity and instability.

The working people of Armenia and all other Soviet people are following a common, time-tested path—the path of internationalism and mutual understanding, friendship and cooperation among the peoples, and a quest for sensible solutions to urgent, complex problems. So they resolutely reject the intrigues of all anti-Soviets, whatever masks they are wearing.

RSFSR Supreme Court Views Prison Sentences

PM250815 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 19 Apr 88 First Edition p 4

[Unattributed report: "RSFSR Supreme Court Plenum"]

[Text] The plenum examined the question of the observance of legislation by the republic's courts in handing down one of the strictest of all sentences—imprisonment.

The number of people sentenced to imprisonment by the courts has been reduced by more than one-half over the past 5 years. This was a reflection both of the further humanization of Soviet criminal policy and of the fact that—in the last 2 or 3 years particularly—there has been a considerable reduction in the number of serious crimes and second offenders. At the same time, the overall reduction in the use of imprisonment has not been reflected in the sentences handed down to malicious and dangerous criminals. This area of judicial practice has been stable.

In its resolution the plenum pointed out to the courts the need to unswervingly observe the principle of individualizing criminal sentences to ensure that in every case the sentence is legitimate, justified, and fair, promotes the correction of the convict as far as possible, and prevents further crimes being committed by him or by others.

The plenum discussed questions of the courts' examination of appeals against rulings pertaining to cases of violations of administrative law. It was stressed that the adoption of the RSFSR Code on Violations of Administrative Law had enhanced the effectiveness of the protection of citizens' rights and legitimate interests.

The plenum explained that a citizen in respect of whom a ruling pertaining to a violation of administrative law is handed down, and the injured party, may elect to appeal against the ruling to the rayon (city) people's court or to the superior administrative organ.

The attention of the courts was drawn to the fact that the investigation of cases in this category should educate citizens and officials in a spirit of punctilious observance of Soviet laws and the rules governing socialist communal life, should foster a respectful attitude to the law and each other's honor and dignity, and should encourage a conscientious attitude to one's duties and responsibilities to society.

The plenum also discussed questions of the courts' observance of procedural legislation in the preparation and hearing of civic cases in court.

The plenum was chaired by Ye.A. Smolentsev, chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Court; S.A. Yemelyanov, RSFSR prosecutor, and V.A. Abolentsev, RSFSR minister of justice, took part in the plenum's work.

Official Discusses Planned Legal Changes

PM210931 Stockholm DAGENS NYHETER in Swedish 9 Apr 88 p 7

[Report on interview with USSR First Deputy General Prosecutor Aleksandr Sukharev by Gun Falth at the Soviet Embassy in Sweden: "The Soviet Union Wants To Abolish the Death Penalty"; date of interview not given]

[Text] In the spirit of glasnost and perestroyka the Soviet Union is on the threshold of far-reaching changes in the judicial system and of a liberalization of its penal legislation. The infamous sentencing regulations covering anti-Soviet propaganda will be limited for use only in cases where the culprit seriously aims to change the present state system.

The death penalty will also be abolished for all crimes apart from mass murder. This was made clear in a conversation DAGENS NYHETER had with Aleksandr Sukharev, first deputy general prosecutor and former deputy justice minister in the Soviet Union. He is on a

short visit to Sweden at the invitation of the "Jurists Against Nuclear Arms" organization, where he is a member of the interim board. He is a humorous and charming man who received DAGENS NYHETER at the Soviet Embassy in a pause between meetings with Swedish colleagues and receptions at the embassy.

One of the problems which Western countries have to wrestle with is their ever-growing crime rates. The trend within the legal system is toward harsher punishments. In the Soviet Union the picture is the opposite, Sukharev said: Crime is on the decrease and the subsequent penalties are being softened.

"In the last 2 years, that is, during the era of glasnost and perestroyka, the most serious crimes have fallen by 20 percent. Crime among young people has also fallen by about the same amount. And this despite the fact that we have reduced prison sentences by about one-half," he said.

According to Sukharev, the decrease in crime is due above all to the fact that the psychological and moral climate has changed. Glasnost has penetrated work collectives and housing estates. Citizens can take more responsibility and feel involved in decisions in a different way than they did previously.

"We are paying more attention to people's spiritual environment and are no longer using the administrative stick," he explained.

"But I do not want to hide the fact that the tougher view we now take of crimes through the abuse of official position (corruption and the abuse of power) has had an effect. We are convinced, for example, that if the head of a work collective shoulders his responsibility in the correct way, this helps to promote a positive climate in the collective."

A large proportion of crimes in the Soviet Union, as in Sweden, are committed under the influence of alcohol.

"That is why we are putting a lot of effort into preventive measures and into rehabilitating abusers, and this has also contributed to the fall in crime. Almost all property in the Soviet Union is state-owned. As a result, theft, embezzlement, fraud, and so on have been viewed as crimes against the state and have been severely punished. But in the spirit of the new age these crimes against the state are not always judged as seriously as they used to be.

"If a director at a factory altered figures in his plan and seemingly achieved better results so that he and his workers received bonuses, he was punished. But now we look instead at the motive he has for theft or fraud. If the director is fudging figures in order to help his workers to get summer cottages or electricity it is still a crime in formal terms, but not as serious as if he had pocketed the money himself."

According to the present penal code, 18 different crimes, including economic crimes, are punishable by death. But in the last 2 years only two death sentences have been carried out. One man was executed after being found guilty of extensive corruption, a second after being found guilty of several murders, Sukharev said.

"Harshness does not produce results. That is why we are now working on draft legislation to abolish the death penalty for all types of crime, including espionage and high treason, but with one exception. Public opinion demands that we retain the death penalty for mass murder."

In the Soviet Union the process of law is supposed to promote the socialist social ideals. The question then is whether the courts are independent in individual cases or whether they are under the influence of the Communist Party, which has the overall responsibility for the development of socialism. Aleksandr Sukharev nodded. He understood the question and said: "We have begun to pay attention to the problem."

"I think that the courts are independent now. Last year a party secretary in a large union republic was sacked, and one of the reasons for this was precisely his attempts to influence the courts. There are bound still to be cases of pressure being exerted, since the country is large and traditions die hard. But before, you could apply pressure on a court out loud to get it to reach a certain decision. Now you can probably only whisper."

In the near future a comprehensive reform of the judicial system will take place to promote what we in Sweden call legal rights. Lawyers will be given broad powers, citizens will receive free legal aid, and a watchdog body along the lines of Sweden's Parliamentary Commissioner for the Judiciary and Civil Administration will be set up.

"We have also begun to expect high standards from judges, prosecutors, and interrogators. There have been cases where they have made light of their duties and not paid sufficient attention to people's needs. Last summer we had elections for judges, and over 300 judges were not reelected precisely because they did not come up to the higher standards."

The RSFSR's infamous political paragraphs 70 and 190, which have counterparts in the penal codes of other republics and which make anti-Soviet slander and anti-Soviet activities offenses, will be redrafted, but not abolished altogether.

"All countries punish those who try to overthrow the state. Our rules must above all be clearer so that they can only be applied when someone really aims to change the state structure."

Nor are there any political prisoners in prisons, in camps, or in mental hospitals any more, Sukharev also claimed.

"The 18 to 20 people who today say they are dissidents have in actual fact been sentenced for ordinary crimes and only subsequently have they said they are dissidents," he said.

It has happened that political dissidents have been placed in mental hospitals, he admitted. But he dismissed with a loud laugh the claim from one Soviet psychiatrist who claims that 10 years ago there were around 800 people shut away and that the figure is probably still just as high.

"You can write to him and ask what source he has used. And if you come to the Soviet Union yourself, you will have an opportunity to see that this is just empty talk."

Foodstuffs on Market Reported in Short Supply

PM201341 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 2 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 2

[V. Tolstov "Commercial Review": "How Things Stand With Our Food"—boldface as published]

[Text] The situation in the consumer goods market at the beginning of 1988 remains complex. This applies both to food and to industrial products. We will speak of industrial goods in the next review, but for now we will speak of food.

Current research into the state of the market conducted by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Study of the Population's Demand for Consumer Goods and the Trade Situation shows that relative stabilization came about in the food trade in 1987. This is also to be observed in the first months of this year. Prior to that, the situation had been deteriorating. Even now it remains quite complex with regard to a whole number of basic foodstuffs, particularly livestock products. But it did not become worse last year. The supply of milk and dairy goods improved somewhat, and deliveries of cheese, eggs, and potatoes increased.

The sugar situation merits special attention. We have already reached the level of per capita sugar consumption envisaged in the Food Program. Sugar sales in the majority of regions of the country have soared as though the season for making preserves and compotes had extended throughout the year. This certainly does not mean that we have gotten a sweeter tooth. The reason for the sugar boom is an open secret: Sugar is being bought up by makers of moonshine and home-brewed beer.

Wishing to set a limit on the new negative phenomenon, local organs of power (out of the best motives, of course) recently imposed restrictions on sugar sales. In Belorussia, for example, it is possible to acquire 1 kg per person per month. And now lines have appeared, rumors are spreading, and sugar is being hoarded quite needlessly: If you have a coupon, you must exchange it for goods, for there could suddenly be no sugar on sale tomorrow....

But the point is that there certainly will be sugar. Both tomorrow and the day after tomorrow. **Stocks of it at wholesale bases are such that normal supplies are guaranteed.** We have no sugar shortage. It has been brought about by a hasty and ill-considered administrative measure which has only strengthened the wave of demand.

Unfortunately, we soon forget our own experience. A similar situation in trade happened in 1972. Then, too, an explosion in the demand for sugar was brought about by measures to combat drunkenness and by rumors of a vodka price hike. However, stores continued to sell sugar without any restrictions, and in a few days the lines disappeared and mass purchases ceased—everything returned to normal.

Practice shows that a shortage of any commodity puts supply and demand out of balance for a long time. Coffee is a recent example. The trade is still unable to saturate the market after coffee was a commodity in acutely short supply for approximately 6 months. Some 20 percent more instant coffee and roughly the same amount of coffee beans as prior to the shortage are now going on sale. However, the demand for coffee has still not been satisfied.

There is no shortage of tea now. You can buy a packet of Georgian or Azerbaijani tea in any city. Teas with the addition of aromatic and medicinal herbs have gone on sale. But there has been no reduction in customer's complaints about quality. There is little good tea on sale, and Indian and Ceylon teas in pure form hardly reach the counter. Imported tea is still blended with home-grown tea in considerable measures, thereby raising the quality of the latter.

The situation regarding baby foods was exacerbated last year. The demand for them has increased still more, but dry mixes and concentrates alone are being put on sale fairly evenly. It is extremely difficult to get hold of foods in paste and liquid form, as well as cans of various fruit, vegetable, and meat baby foods. The volumes of deliveries of them to trade are far below requirements. Enterprises producing baby milk products are also badly supplied.

Buckwheat remains in short supply. The shortages have been offset to some extent by rice, which is of roughly equal food value and of which trade obtains adequate supplies. But, of course, nothing can take the place of buckwheat.

Supplies of vegetables and fruit are very uneven. On the whole, the demand for them has not been satisfied. Although seasonal fairs have enlivened the fruit and vegetable trade, they have been unable to have a decisive impact on the market situation. A fair is followed by long pauses when vegetable stores do not have on sale even goods in daily demand—cabbages, carrots, apples. Onions are an exception: There has been uninterrupted trading in them since last year.

It is worth pointing out that the store prices for fruit and vegetable products have increased over the past year. The increase was influenced by the fact that agro-industrial committees took advantage of their right to set prices according to product quality. But a price increase does not always correspond to a good's quality. In some cases, therefore, local organs of power have reduced unjustifiably high prices, as happened in Riga, for example.

According to specialists' assessments, there are signs of a growing shortage of vegetable oil. Unfortunately, poor use is being made of the potential for producing high-quality corn oil, and the quality of sunflower oil is deteriorating.

The bread trade is not experiencing any difficulties, but customers continue to have many complaints about the quality of bread and flour products.

In general, the fall in the quality of foodstuffs has assumed a permanent nature, and it has not yet been possible to halt this process.

If we assess the state of the foodstuffs market with regard to the Food Program adopted in 1980, it has to be admitted that the country's agro-industrial complex—the chief food supplier—is coping badly with its task. Little more than 2 years remain until the deadline for realizing the program, which was designed for two 5-year plans.

Crops Near Decontaminated Chernobyl Area

LD231158 Moscow World Service in English 1100 GMT 23 Apr 88

[Text] In a number of areas adjoining the nuclear power plant in Chernobyl, where an accident occurred 2 years ago, preparations for spring sowing are in full swing. The area has been decontaminated, which makes it possible to plant crops there. The population has returned to several villages from where it was evacuated. Several more population centers are expected to receive their inhabitants in the near future. At the plant itself, and in a 30-km zone around it, decontamination work was particularly intensive.

Chernobyl Accident Examined 2 Years Later

Impact on Belorussia Described

PM291139 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 22 Apr 88 Second Edition p 4

[Own correspondent A. Simurov dispatch under the rubric "Chernobyl: Two Years On": "In the Area Surrounding the 'Zone'" followed by comment from M.V. Kovalev, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers]

[Excerpts] Gomel, Mogilev, Minsk—[Passage omitted]

Pluses and Minuses [subhead]

The theme of the dispatch had been defined at the editorial office as follows: Visit places located around the 30-km zone and describe what has been done there over the past 2 years. Describe what life is like and what the prospects are. [passage omitted]

Incidentally, let us not jump to conclusions, but hear what people who are themselves living "in the area surrounding the zone" have to say.

We found Nikolay Panchik, acting chief physician of Bragin central hospital, trying to cope with a difficult task. The hospital should have a staff of 50 doctors, yet there are only 21. How is one to provide clinical treatment for the population and care for the sick?

Where are the other doctors?

Over the past 2 years 34 specialists have left. Half of them simply ran away, Nikolay Arkadyevich said bitterly.

What about the Hippocratic Oath?

They trampled on it without even taking their white coats off.... It is a serious problem. Some of them were my friends, and this is what it has come to...

When they needed apartments they knew the way to the raykom, G. Pankov, raykom first secretary, joins in the conversation. But when the accident happened, they suddenly forgot the address....

Take heart, N. Panchik says, producing a number of letters. Doctors from various places are offering their services.

Tell them to come. Tell them about the double pay and provision of housing, the secretary encourages him.

From Bragin the asphalt road led straight south. It cut through deserted fields and villages. Here and there we came across guards and military chemists working on the decontamination of population centers, carefully checking every farmstead, every enclosure. [passage omitted]

When I asked G. Pshikhodskiy, first secretary of the Krasnopolskiy party raykom, to name the most outstanding feature of life in the rayon he thought for a while.

Probably the stabilization of the situation, Gennadiy Mikhaylovich then said with conviction. During the first 2 years people were leaving the rayon. Now they are returning. That is an encouraging trend. We have a net gain of 53 people.

Pained, the party leader spoke about the deserters. We had to expel the teachers Shevchenko, husband and wife, from the party. They abandoned Vydrevka school in the middle of the academic year and ran off taking some valuable property with them. The best machine operator, one of the activists, proved a disappointment. True, he later returned to a neighboring farm. He had too guilty a conscience to come back to his own farm.

The extreme conditions have helped to test people's strength of character, they have shown up people's virtues and weaknesses. At the same time, they have put the quality of our work to a test, Gennadiy Mikhaylovich admitted. Most Krasnopol Rayon inhabitants did not flinch, they displayed civic courage. [passage omitted]

F. Maslakov, a farm driver complained:

Our small village of Novoye Zhitye is located between Novo-Yelnya and Kozel. In the neighboring villages the pay is higher. In addition they get a special payment of R30 per head for everyone who buys food from the stores. We get neither, although the food on the farms is also contaminated.

At first work began on a well for the construction of a water main in our village too. But then it emerged that someone somewhere had not entered this village on the official list. So the construction of the water main was abandoned and the construction workers departed.

Unraveling the finance riddle, we managed to establish that everything is to be blamed on some unfortunate temporary radiation levels defined on someone's recommendation in remote offices. If the local radiation level is the same or higher, additional payments are to be made.

And if they are a fraction lower?

No allowance is made. For failure to comply with the regulations deductions will be made from wages, the finance men are threatening farm managers.

Does that perhaps mean that the milk in such villages can be consumed?

By no means!...

So you nonetheless have to go to the store?

Definitely!

And the money?...

Strange logic and entirely incomprehensible recommendations. Meanwhile, as has emerged, the arbitrarily introduced temporary adjustments apply to hundreds of villages and many thousands of people. What is more, it is not a question of some short-lived measure but of decades of living within a zone in the presence of an invisible and therefore treacherous health hazard—radioactive radiation.

Stores and stalls operate in the villages. And this is a good thing. What is not so good is that villagers frequently have to divide their time between livestock units, fields, and waiting in line for a bit of cooked meat, a sausage, some dairy products, or groats.

Listening to the villagers' accounts, I came to the following conclusion: The state is generous with financial assistance to the victims, it has supplied food, housing, livestock, and seeds. However, at local level an efficient and fair system for distributing the allocated funds has not been set up everywhere to ensure that they reach those for whom they are intended. Judging by appearances, party, soviet, and trade union organs have slackened their distribution-supervision functions in the special zones prematurely and without reason. [passage omitted]

Problems Remain [subhead]

Anyone who thinks that the Belorussians have succeeded in killing the "radiation dragon" would be making a serious mistake. The first steps have been taken. It took 2 years to master the rudiments of the struggle with the radiation contamination of the living environment. The iodine compounds have disappered quickly, but what is to be done with the heavy elements? No one has yet been able to answer the question of how long it will be before a permanent improvement of working and living conditions occurs right up to complete normalization of the situation. Incidentally, sad as it may be, certain leaders (and the further away they are from the scene of the accident, the more numerous they are) take a false view of the situation, believing that the worst is over. Hence also the erroneousness of some of the decisions and actions. Some people think along the following lines: It is necessary to put an end to the requests for assistance; how much longer can you talk about Chernobyl?

Scientists are adamant: Both extremes are dangerous and harmful: On the one hand disregard for the real situation which can lead to radiation damage if the specialists' recommendations are not observed. Since no one is dying, many people have decided that it is possible to consume milk, meat, fish, and collect mushrooms and berries in places where this is not allowed. The other extreme is taking an exaggerated view of the risk involved in living in a number of areas within the controlled zone.

Another flaw in the work to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster in Belorussia must be mentioned. It is perhaps the main one. To this day there is no single comprehensive state program either in the country or the republic which would extend at least through the end of the 13th 5-Year Plan. No provision has been

made for allocating the necessary financial and material resources. The local view, and it is a correct view, is that special provision for this should be made in the state plans.

Current substantial but uncoordinated actions on the part of ministries and departments have, as experience has shown, failed to secure the necessary effect, V. Leonov, first secretary of the Mogilev party obkom, told me. For this reason many points of good party and government resolutions and measures remain unfulfilled. So for instance the target for constructing showers at places of work has not been met. The same applies to the deliveries of sealed cabs for tractors and the provision of special transport facilities for the transportation of goods and food products to population centers. Our requirements for mineral fertilizers, natural adsorbents, effective detergents, mixed feeds, and so forth have not been met. It is unbecoming for oblast representatives to have to knock, cap in hand, on the doors of various authorities.

There is a data bank—the territory and the fund are well known. What we are saying is: Give us a state program, A. Kamay, first secretary of the Gomel party obkom, explains. Define clearly what should be done and when, give us the resources, specify the scale and volumes. They reply: You have to obtain it all through additional targets and above-plan output. This approach is unconvincing and unsubstantiated since the material resources do not even cover planned targets.

I was able to see for myself that people in both Gomel and Mogilev understand that all these questions are not easy for the state. However, they must be resolved and, in my view, given full glasnost. We recall the powerful and united voice of the public and authoritative state figures that rang out when the ecological situation around Lakes Baykal and Ladoga deteriorated or when the question of the diversion of the flow of northern rivers arose. Why is this voice currently not being heard in Belorussia? After all, it is clear that the answer to the questions raised by Chernobyl must be sought by the whole republic, the whole country. Unfortunately, neither the republic nor the All-Union Academy of Sciences have any comprehensive recommendations to submit. Thus the need arises for yet another fundamental solution—the establishment of a coordination center which could supply the 14 local rayons with comprehensive technologies and advice.

M.V. Kovalev, chairman of the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers, comments:

I can say without exaggeration that efforts to eliminate the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster as swiftly as possible are in the forefront of the activities of the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee and the Belorussian SSR Council of Ministers. We share the people's pain. The republic has worked very hard over the past 2 years in order to alleviate this pain and where possible remove it altogether.

The dispatch lays stress on human relations and makes correct objective assessments of the situation prevailing locally. I would therefore like to broaden the picture by supplying specific facts and figures from the sphere of the economy and from day-to-day practice. They speak for themselves. Take the following acute and painful issue: People are forced to leave a place where they have lived for years and move elsewhere. This fate has befallen 24,700 people from 107 population centers. We have built 9,700 farmstead-type houses for them. It is also true that 1,600 people returned to 12 population settlements in the summer. A huge volume of other work has been carried out. What kind of work? Decontamination of 412 villages has been carried out and more than 400 social, consumer, and cultural installations have been built. As have hundreds of kilometers of hard-surface roads, powerlines, water mains, and sewerage; and plenty of Artesian wells have been sunk. Deep plowing, liming, application of increased doses of mineral fertilizer and grassing and regrassing of land has been carried out on hundreds of thousands of hectares.

I am listing these measures in detail because, as we have been able to see for ourselves, they have a decisive impact on the lowering of the level of radiation within the zones subject to strict monitoring and this, naturally, reduces the risk of external irradiation.

The next problem is to provide the population with "clean" food products and thus to protect them from internal irradiation. Here we have found ways of allocating to the affected rayons additional supplies of tens of thousands of tonnes of meat and dairy products, groats, pasta, millions of cans of vegetables and fruit, and other foodstuffs and also many consumer goods. At all the schools in the zone three or four free meals are given to children.

We are making exacting demands on scientists and health care organs. For instance, we have established a number of new scientific and medical subunits. A medical-biological data bank covering 155,000 people has been set up. An isotope map of the republic has been compiled. The radiation burden on the population has been studied and health forecasts have been drawn up.

I must say that most of our petitions and requests have met with understanding and support in union-level bodies. To corroborate this I will cite a number of figures. We have, for instance, paid out R177 million from the state budget in various kinds of compensations and allowances. The cost of eliminating the consequences of the accident, including the losses resulting from reduced production in the said area, total R1 billion 835 million.

We have achieved a situation in which all state plans for the production of industrial and agricultural output in Gomel and Mogilev Oblasts have been fulfilled. The dispatch correctly noted the miscalculations at local level, especially in the delimitation of the radioactive zones and the payment of allowances and compensation. We will continue in our efforts to clarify and rectify these problems, react sensitively and promptly to the working people's complaints, and restore justice. People's interests must not be ignored. This is exactly the angle from which this question was viewed during a recent discussion of the consequences of the Chernobyl accident at the Belorussian Communist Party Central Committee Bureau and the government of the republic.

In view of the long-term nature of radiactive pollution, the Belorussian SSR Gosplan has elaborated a program for 1988-1990 to further strengthen and improve the production and social sphere in the rayons which were subjected to the brunt of the radiation. For this purpose R289 million has been appropriated this year, including R185 million for construction and installation work.

It must be admitted that the considerable amount of work which has been carried out has by no means eliminated all the strains, miscalculations, and omissions. I fully support in particular the proposals of the Mogilev and Gomel party obkoms that a unionwide comprehensive state program and an all-union coordination center be set up under the aegis of the State Commission for Eliminating the Consequences of the Accident at Chernobyl AES. Provision should then be made for the concrete implementation of their recommendations and advice in national economic development plans, thus acquiring legal status.

Despite our requests, the competent organs have so far failed to review the levels of pollution of areas with a view to their economic utilization and the population's life there. Hence the misunderstandings in the payment of allowances and compensation and the allocation of financial and material resources.

Neither is it possible to tolerate any longer the shortage of highly sensitive and up-to-date instruments. This is very important for the accuracy of measurements and the objective assessment of all parameters in the zones which were subjected to pollution.

Psychological Factors Explored

PM251531 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 4

[Report by IZVESTIYA special correspondents N. Baklanov and A. Illesh: "Chernobyl: Third Difficult April"]

[Text] Chernobyl-Kiev-Moscow—It is 2 years since the name of the small Ukrainian town of Chernobyl became known all over the world. During that time thousands of newspaper and journal articles have been written, movies have appeared on the screen, and books have been published analyzing in detail the causes of the accident. But even today the tragedy that occurred on the night of 26 April 1986 at the station's No 4 power unit and all the subsequent major events continue to attract the attention of millions.

The road into the former closed zone around the Chernobyl AES is not busy like it was 2 years or even 1 year ago. There are noticeably fewer military subunit positions and collections of equipment draped with camouflage nets. The station looks perfectly peaceful, even the damaged unit in its steel casing, inside which radioactive elements continue to decay. There is no extreme activity. The temperature inside, measured by numerous gauges, is noticeably falling. The negligible nature of the emissions of radioactive aerosols from the "tomb"—one-tenth of the permitted level for a normally operating power unit—is indicated by the fact that the upper filters in the powerful ventilation system have not needed changing for 3-4 months because they have remained virtually clear.

These facts, combined with the decontamination carried out in buildings and over a considerable area around the nuclear power station, make it possible to operate the station. Last year personnel received on average 1.5 rems, compared with the internationally permitted norm of 5 rems over 12 months. It is expected that this indicator will drop to 1.2 rems at the Chernobyl AES this year.

Station director M. Umanets:

Since the accident the three newly commissioned power units have generated around 20 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity. They are operating at full capacity. Planned preventive repairs are now taking place at the first unit. A range of measures has been implemented here, at the nuclear power station, which make it possible to reliably control the nuclear reactors and prevent situations that could lead to dangerous deviations for normal operating conditions. In particular, the performance of the reactors from the nuclear physics viewpoint has been improved. The speed of action of the protection and regulation systems has been considerably increased. Any unplanned increase in neutron output would cause the immediate insertion of absorption rods to halt the process. It is an automatic operation and the system is duplicated many times over.

Two training centers were recently set up to train shifts working at the VVER-1000 and RBMK-1000 reactors. There are full-scale training sessions during which it is possible to simulate all possible accident situations and train and test individual workers and an entire shift at once. In a period of 1 year the entire personnel of every station operating in our country will attend a training center.

V. Abramova, chief of the Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation "Prognoz" Laboratory:

Despite the rather high probability [as published] of critical situations at nuclear power stations significant incidents are not that frequent—in the vast majority of cases the operators act promptly and with precision. But annoying malfunctions do occur. Can they be avoided? Is it possible to reduce the likelihood of human error by modifying the circumstances?

In this sense, the experience of the Chernobyl accident, which seems to have been a concentration of all the errors and all the defects in the system of relations and collaboration among scientists, designers, builders, managers, and operators of nuclear technology, should be very instructive. This system has its origins deep in the "stagnation" years, and changing it is not easy.

The psychological analysis of the accident at the Chernobyl AES goes far beyond ergonomics and the sphere of "operator-power installation" interaction. In a brief interview it is impossible to give a complete psychological picture of what happened at the Chernobyl AES, indeed there is no need to: On the basis of the materials assessing the causes of the accident the party and government have adopted a number of important resolutions intended for many departments and organizations and geared to fundamentally improving the state of affairs in the nuclear power industry. But something is happening that we have seen many times before: It is a long and hard path, full of difficulties and obstacles, from the adoption of a decision to the eventual completion of work.

As a psychologist I see as the chief obstacle the fact that very many people involved in nuclear power station safety have not developed a sense of responsibility for what happened. It looks like the cup of responsibility for the Chernobyl events has been drained by those who are no longer among the living. That has indeed happened, but there is an obvious distortion in the public's emphasis, in determining the causes of the Chernobyl AES tragedy, on the station personnel's guilt. The consequences are being felt even now: Much of what it was decided to do to ensure the reliability of the AES and improve the quality of training for stations' personnel is making difficult and much slower progress than is needed.

For example, VUZ programs for training specialists for the nuclear power industry have remained effectively unchanged. If anything is changing in them, it is mainly in connection with the reorganization of higher education. Education plans still do not contain either ergonomics courses or management psychology courses. Obviously it will be a long time before we will really be able to see at Soviet nuclear power stations unit control panels which match, for example, Japanese models, created on the basis of engineering psychology principles. The problem of training development and creation of technical facilities for operator training is also having difficulty getting off the ground. Interdepartmental consultations on this take up less time than they do on ordinary matters unconnected with the accident.

At the moment psychologists and sociologists are very worried about a number of phenomena connected with unbalanced coverage of the Chernobyl events and their consequences. Nuclear power station worker status is declining. This will have an adverse effect on the level of competition for power engineering VUZ's, increase the exodus of skilled cadres, and, consequently, lower the overall standard of professionalism, expertise, and reliability of work.

It can now confidently be said that the changing status of psychology and sociology can serve as an indicator of the course of restructuring in the sector. And psychological and sociological services are being organized at a very substantial level in the nuclear power industry. Psychologists—in the job selection system—and sociologists—in the social development subunits structure—have joined the nuclear power station staff schedule, and they are already working at seven stations. The "Prognoz" specialized laboratory, which has 6 years' experience of work in the nuclear power industry, has been considerably strengthened.

Psychologists are being inundated by a sea of human problems and specific production conflicts. It is necessary—it should have been done yesterday!—to organize a personnel survey to determine whether they are up to scratch. In view of the high demands the profession makes on nuclear power station workers, recommendations should be made for individual work with each person being surveyed. The psychological climate in collectives must be investigated and assistance must be given in removing the cause of the heightened incidence of conflicts.... It is necessary to address the placement of cadres in accordance with their compatibility workwise. It is necessary to compile a prognosis of the social effect of the switch to the new pay system. Help must be given in organizing jobs. And so on and so forth.. [Abramova ends]

Decontamination remains one of the main operations being carried out in the zone. At first glance this may be surprising: What, is a "cleanup" still needed after so much has been written about the radioactive contamination having been removed from the station?!

V. Starodumov, director of the "Kompleks" specialized enterprise:

The process continues uninterrupted. All the time we are moving from good results to even better ones. What does this mean? As we perform another "circuit" we carry out a careful radiation check on the area, pick out the places with an increased background, and start decontamination again.

Aside from its now customary work of removing radioactive contamination, our specialized enterprise has recently had to carry out yet another difficult operation. I am referring to the cleaning of apartments in Pripyat. When the populace was evacuated from the city many products were left in homes—in time they began to decompose and became a potential source of epidemics. So it was decided this winter to clear everything out of the apartments—the owners have already received compensation for property left behind. This work proceeded quickly despite the difficulties involved and the need for careful searches and decontamination. Sometimes we cleaned out 300 apartments in a day, and by the beginning of April it was all done, around 15,000 apartments and buildings having been dealt with in all.

Some of them have now been adapted to the needs of specialists working here. Some blocks have become hostels for people coming in to do a tour of duty; production facilities have been set up in others.

Here, in Pripyat, there are radiobiological research hothouses studying how different plants have reacted to the increase in radiation due to the accident. It must be said that the results are very reassuring. "Kompleks" deputy director N. Arkhipov, head of the radiology and recultivation service, talked about them:

In the roots of some plants the degree of contamination corresponds to the level of soil contamination, but it is already between one-tenth and one-hundredth of that in stems and fruit. And in seeds the dose is entirely insignificant and harmless—one ten-thousandth of that on the ground.

Research carried out by the radiology and recultivation service has demonstrated that agricultural work can indeed be carried out in a substantial part of the closed zone. But the republic agroprom intends to use only a comparatively small area. To use more land for agricultural purposes is inadvisable at the moment primarily for economic reasons—in fact, most of the population has been evacuated from the zone and is now well settled in new places....

Concerning the people who have been resettled. They are all on clinics' books and have been undergoing medical checks, coordinated and carried out by the USSR Academy of Medical Sciences Scientific Center for Radiological Medicine, which operates in Kiev. The data from the mass survey of people evacuated from the 30-kilometer zone and adjoining areas have not revealed any worrying abnormalities in their state of health.

The people of Kiev have no cause either to fear the various diseases caused by increased radioactivity. We have already published the opinions of many authoritative specialists in this connection, categorically asserting that the present level of background radiation in Kiev is absolutely safe—between 0.045 of a milliroentgen per hour in left-bank areas to 0.035 of a milliroentgen in right-bank areas. For comparison's sake let us say that natural background radiation here is 0.02 of a milliroentgen per hour. It is typical of many large cities and is virtually the same as the background radiation caused by industrial activity in, for example, Moscow and Leningrad.

There is something to be considered in this connection. The most incredible rumors have been rife in Kiev again about the "tomb" having allegedly cracked, about high background radiation, about evacuation from the zone of people "emitting" radiation endangering others. And whereas immediately after the accident such fantasies could be attributed to a lack of authentic information, that does not apply now. In the central and local press and in television and radio programs all manner of information connected with the state of affairs at the Chernobyl station, the radiation situation in the area, and medical investigations and prognoses has been reported dozens, if not hundreds of times.

By no means do we intend to gussy up reality and paint pictures of cloudless Chernobyl skies. There are problems, and our paper has discussed them. There is the grief of the people who were forced to leave their homes and who are in the evacuation zone; there are the old people who try to return to their homes at all costs. There are the thieves and opportunists trying to use this dramatic situation to their advantage. There are the objects of cultural value left in the zone, whose fate has not yet been determined.... The difficult and painful problem of housing for the Chernobyl AES operating personnel is a special one. As is known, a new city, Slavutich, has been built for them, but many of the power workers, who were given temporary apartments in Kiev and are now traveling to the station to work in stints, do not want to move there. The station leaders are trying to find a way out of the situation and have promised to look into each specific case. At the same time, personnel are being recruited from other stations in the country in order to be able, having populated the new power workers' city, to abandon the work stint method and switch to conventional methods of operating the Chernobyl AES....

It is the third April in the Chernobyl area.

Kombinat's Nepotism Criticized

PM251407 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Apr 88 Second Edition p 3

[Special correspondents V. Gubarev and M. Odinets article, followed by commentary by V.A. Masol, chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers: "Chernobyl: Two Years On. The 'Zone's' Echo"—boldface as published]

[Text] **Chernobyl, Kiev Oblast—An uninhabited city dies quickly. Just 2 years ago Pripyat was merrily scintillating, music could be heard through windows opened widely to welcome the spring, Zhigulis and Moskviches were roaming the streets, small children were at play in parks and gardens.**

Today the city offers a visitor the sight of deserted windows, boarded-up stores, a bed base fallen off a truck, and a silence so profound and so unexpected that you are constantly looking around, wondering if anyone is following you with the click of heels echoing off the surrounding buildings.... The public gardens have already been taken over by weeds, which are even sprouting through the road surface in places. Isn't it amazing, how quickly they grow?! We saw the fields on our way to the power station. They were not harvested in the wake of the accident, the grain just fell on the ground, and new shoots are already sprouting—but brown patches are spreading more and more widely over these fields, showing where weeds have taken over from wheat. This fall will probably see their final triumph....

The weeds have spread from the fields into the city, not to be halted by either the barbed wire which now encircles Pripyat nor by the "sanitary cordon" established around the city. As a matter of fact, the weeds had in all likelihood been hiding inside the city, and now that their time has come they are sprouting above ground.... The bitter wormwood makes your soul ache, the ache takes a grip of you and is unlikely to ever let go, because it is unbearably hard to see cities dying.

But this is how it has to be. For life's sake. This is why truck after truck carries out bedsteads and rugs, television sets and sofas—everything that is still left in Pripyat's apartments. Decontamination! This word was adopted into common usage in the last couple of years, and in Pripyat today it means that apartments must be completely emptied of furniture and junk because they are covered with radioactive dust. Everything is to be destroyed....

The power station is not too far away from here, its white buildings and the dark pyramid of the No 4 power unit shimmer in the spring haze. Decontamination work is fine, but what is actually happening there, at the heart of the "zone"?

At the Power Station [subhead]

There is very little greenery around the AES, there are none of the old lawns left. A gray expanse of concrete. It was only later, from the gallery linking the power station's units, that we saw for ourselves the thickness of this concrete layer: The narrow-gauge railroad tracks seemed to be running inside a deep channel whereas previously, before the accident, they used to run on the surface. The topsoil was swept away from the entire area and the ground was then covered with concrete and asphalt. Even more "rummaging" has to be done underground this year—main service lines run along there, they have to be exposed, decontaminated, and repaired. More earth and topsoil will brought in the near future here, to the AES area, flower beds and lawns will be laid out again, and the power station will regain the appearance it had before the accident....

As a matter of fact, why not make use of "artificial" topsoil? In our article "A Sofa with a Secret" (14 March 1988) we described an unusual enterprise which operates in California. Having already toured Chernobyl, one of us met Harry Gessner [surname as published] who confirmed that if such an enterprise were to be built in the Chernobyl area it would make it possible not only to utilize the waste but also to supply the "zone" with artificial topsoil. It is, therefore, up to our own departments and organizations....

It is gratifying that there are no signs of "accident mentality" at the power station, at least none that are externally visible. Respirators have almost disappeared (even though medical workers still recommend their use), there is order and cleanliness everywhere. The monitoring is as rigid as it is supposed to be. Dosimetry stations guard the approaches and automatically scan the clothing of everyone crossing the threshold into the AES. The power station's units are functioning with precision, there is no bustle, there are no superfluous personnel. Generally speaking, everything is as it should be on any ordinary day at any AES. It would be naive, however, to imagine that the accident in Chernobyl had no effect on the collective of power industry workers....

Operational personnel... Yes, it was the body of operational personnel that contained people who committed tragic mistakes which, compounded by all sorts of shortcomings, wrong judgments, and negligence, produced the catastrophe at the Chernobyl AES No 4 power unit. A shadow was cast over the entire collective. The AES workers had to cope with sharp and at times painful critical comments (quite a few of them in the last 2 years!), they had to endure it all and to soberly analyze the extent of their personal responsibility as well as the overall state of affairs in the nuclear power industry. The Chernobyl AES today is different from what it was in April 1986. Precision in work, discipline, order.... You cannot fail noticing this when you see the AES power units and the operational personnel. The main conclusion has perhaps been drawn from the lessons of the tragedy which occurred here, at the Chernobyl AES.

...Accompanied by Ye. Borodavko, secretary of the AES party committee, we walked along the long, bright passage with its walls covered in anodized aluminum. We were making our way to the No 4 power unit. Every now and again we met people wearing coveralls and protective clothing, then a dosimetry specialist approached us with an instrument in his hand. "Normal conditions," he said having checked the reading. And there we were, in front of a door with a sign indicating that it led to the No 3 power unit control room.

We talked with Vladimir Borisovich Gorokhov, chief of operations at the No 3 power unit.

"What has changed at the power station recently?"

"People's attitude to their duties. There are more rigid demands as regards compliance with instructions, discipline has been enhanced. But this did not happen overnight; it took radical measures."

Gorokhov has spent almost 10 years at the power station, but he suddenly started having doubts—should he continue working here or not? Following the accident he, like many others, was given an apartment in Kiev. But now that the first stage at Slavutich has been handed over, he has been offered good accommodation there in exchange for his apartment in Kiev. He is still young but has no desire to move. "My wife doesn't want to," he said. "She is working as a systems engineer in Kiev and there are no jobs for her in Slavutich." We heard how he was advised to think it over, to try to persuade his wife. But it is not Gorokhov alone who faces this problem. Now that the time has come to be allocated apartments and move away from Kiev, it appears that many would rather leave the power station just for the sake of keeping their accommodation in the Ukrainian capital. This means that it may become necessary to part with a certain proportion of experienced people who are familiar with their work and recruit young skilled replacements to fill staff vacancies. This is no easy job, and the AES leadership will have to make considerable efforts to overcome the emerging difficulties.

A narrow, but attractive "golden" passage leads to the machine hall. It looks enormous. Turbines hum evenly and rhythmically. Electricity from Chernobyl is flowing into the country's power grid system. A thick ferroconcrete partition wall conceals the destroyed No 4 power unit. Externally, the structure entombing it looks somber, not only because of its leaden color but also because of our attitude to it.

A special group of people, consisting of more than 40 members, works behind a protective barrier. They constantly monitor what is happening behind the ferroconcrete armor.

The No 4 power unit is cooling down, Chernobyl AES Director M. Umanets said in a conversation with journalists, and its housing is a large scientific research laboratory. Instruments show that the temperature and gamma radiation levels which indicate the power unit's condition are falling. As for the neutron stream and gas contents, including hydrogen content, they are down to zero. I can confidently state that the damaged power unit is not a source of enhanced aerosol activeness emission. The average daily emission of radioactive fission products passing through the special filtering system into the atmosphere is 10 times lower than in the operational power units. The No 4 power unit was recently surrounded with a new and improved monitoring system using a larger number of comprehensive sensors. Thanks to this, the accuracy of the information we obtain has been enhanced.

Scientists have also developed programs whose implementation is calculated over the immediate and more distant future, in other words with a view to the long-term conservation of the No 4 power unit's housing. They include inspections of inaccessible premises beneath the reactor to be carried out using remote video and robot equipment. Roofs are being decontaminated again. The roofing material of the No 1 and No 2 power unit machine halls has been replaced. The three power units have generated more than 21 billion kilowatt-hours of electricity since they were restarted after the accident. The No 2 and No 3 power units are operational at present, while No 1 unit is undergoing capital maintenance. It is planned to resume operations in the last third of May, in the first of six scheduled maintenance operations ranging between capital, intermediate, and scheduled preventive maintenance. The 1988 target of the Chernobyl AES is to generate 19.9 billion kilowatt-hours.

The likelihood of accidental exposure to large-scale irradiation is ruled out as far as the AES personnel are concerned, the director confirmed, and radiation conditions are normal. We estimate that this year the AES personnel will be exposed to 1.2-1.3 rems of radiation against the 5-rem maximum permissible radiation dose acceptable for professional workers both at home and abroad. But decontamination work is continuing.... Some 88 percent of the personnel now working at Chernobyl AES are "indigenous," in other words people who worked there before the accident. Staff members undergo periodical recertification. The reliability and efficiency of reactor protection control systems are being enhanced.

Every power unit has an annual planned generation ceiling of 7 billion kilowatt-hours, the AES director remarked. We are maintaining power unit operations at a level close to but just below the planned ceiling so as to be able to carry out all the scheduled equipment maintenance promptly, fully, and without cutting down on the time taken.

Unfortunately, this is not always done. We were told at the party obkom, which regularly analyzes the state of affairs at Chernobyl AES, that the AES leadership at times displays a desire to give primary importance to solving questions concerning power station operations, to the detriment of the quality of maintenance work and repairs to particularly complex equipment. Last year, for example, maintenance work was carried out without proper inspection or technological studies. A session of the [obkom] bureau pointed out that there was no proper monitoring of the performance of maintenance work by the leadership of the AES and shop technical services or by the chief engineer, while equipment was being commissioned with serious defects.

Negligence Once Again? [subhead]

The Kiev party obkom bureau sharply criticized the leadership of the "Kombinat" Production Association

for failing to analyze in detail the state of affairs at the power station. Its services failed to offer effective practical assistance to the AES in solving a whole series of questions, as a result of which many of the planned measures to enhance AES safety after the No 4 power unit accident were not implemented. Gross violations were committed in observing sanitation norms through a lack of permanent monitoring and proper demandingness. In view of all this, the Kiev party obkom judged as unsatisfactory the work of the "Kombinat" Production Association's leadership on enhancing the power station's safety and reliability and on creating normal conditions for the personnel's work and leisure, while former "Kombinat" leader Ye. Ignatenko, AES Director M. Umanets, and others were reprimanded.

Judging by everything, the "Kombinat" leadership has failed to learn lessons from past events and the latest inspection there revealed gross violations in work with cadres. The Kiev Obkom Bureau noted that the process of their selection and promotion often occurred without taking into consideration the opinion of party organizations, on the basis of personal friendship and family ties. Persons previously tried for criminal offenses, expelled from the CPSU ranks, or severely reprimanded along party lines were appointed to leadership positions. Some sectors were headed by people who could not cope with their assigned work, while medical workers, teachers, animal technicians, or people without higher education were being appointed to engineering positions. Lack of principle and nepotism in cadres issues led to violations of staff and financial discipline and abuses of official position.

There has been no decline in drunkenness, theft, or breaches of labor discipline at the "Kombinat" Association. Democratic principles and glasnost are underestimated in work with personnel. Ye. Ignatenko, former general director of the "Kombinat" Production Association, displayed liberalism and political immaturity when assessing instances of indiscipline, numerous breaches of staff and financial discipline, nepotism, family favoritism, and cases of moral decay involving certain leadership cadres. Once again the work of the "Kombinat" Production Association's leadership—this time as regards work with cadres—was adjudged unsatisfactory by the Kiev party obkom, while its leaders were reprimanded along party lines.

Is it not really strange to read about such things? As if there had been no accident.... People's reactions to the accident are so different. It is gratifying that the Kiev party obkom is taking the "Kombinat" workers strictly to task. There is no other way....

Pripyat and River Traps [subhead]

We returned to Pripyat from the power station. The bus approached the city hothouses which supplied the residents with vegetables and flowers. A small dog joyfully leaped to greet us as soon as we crossed the hothouse threshold. Specialists are thoroughly studying the behavior of plants in soil exposed to radiation to find which ones among them are the fastest to clear radionuclides from the soil. Strawberries, raspberries, currants, radishes, celery, and parsley are being hydroponically grown.

We approached the building housing the offices of the plant, which is part of Kiev's "Mayak" Science and Production Association. The premises now house a subdivision dealing with the detection of radionuclide concentrations and their elimination in Pripyat, the power station, and the territory surrounding them. It is headed by Hero of Socialist Labor Yu. Samoylenko.

A mass of problems have to be solved on a daily basis, he said—problems which could not even be imagined in the past. The work is interesting. Very many people work here in harmony over and above the set time limit—they are so captivated by the innovative quest and the complexity of the tasks. Could Pripyat be decontaminated? Possibly, perhaps. There is much work to be done in the "zone." The problem of its suitability for life awaits its solution: After all, we are talking about several hundred thousand hectares of land.

This is to be done in the future. Now it is necessary to get over the spring floods.

More than 130 protective dikes, canals, traps, and sediment locks have been constructed here. The embankment along the Sakhan River is around 7 km long. Barriers along the Pripyat's tributaries—the Veresnya, Ilya, and Grezlya Rivers—are constructed as follows: If contaminated elements get through the first dike, they are caught in a second barrier, and if they pass the second they will be caught in a third or fourth trap. Last year's spring showed that this protective system worked efficiently. The same will happen this spring.

Extensive water protection measures have also proved their worth. The power station territory is now separated from the river by a dike which now consists of 177 locks. Whenever radioactive particles are detected in the ground water, it is pumped away for purification. A 2km-long wall, reaching 30 meters deep into the ground, separates the power station from the Pripyat and rules out any possibility of contaminated elements making their way into the river through the underground water-bearing strata.

The leadership of both Kiev Oblast and the republic as a whole is seriously concerned about the power station, the zone surrounding it, and the elimination of the accident's consequences. While in Kiev we met G. Revenko, first secretary of Kiev Obkom.

The USSR Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation, he said, is hardly worried about what is happening inside

the 10km zone surrounding the power station, but this is a very serious problem for Kiev Oblast. One gets the impression that, once the No 3 power unit at the AES was commissioned, many organizations stopped paying attention altogether to what was happening around it. The "Kombinat" Production Association is failing to perform its basic task regarding restoration of order inside the 30km zone and bringing it back to its pre-accident state, even though the association has quite a large staff by now. At times one gets the impression that some subdivisions simply have no idea what to do next. The serious shortcomings recently revealed in the activity of "Kombinat" make it possible to conclude that the USSR Ministry of Nuclear Power Generation is too tolerant toward the gross errors and mistakes in its work.

Commentary by V.A. Masol, Chairman of the Ukrainian SSR Council of Ministers [subhead]

I would like to note that, during the period since the accident at Chernobyl AES, the republic's party, soviet, and economic organs have done much work to eliminate the consequences of this accident and to ensure the safety of the population and normal rhythm of the national economy's functioning in the adjacent rayons.

A unique protective housing for the damaged reactor was erected and commissioned within the tightest possible timeframe, and a system to monitor the reactor's condition and the reliability of the housing itself was created and is now operating around the clock. The three remaining power units at the AES have been recommissioned and are operating steadily.

Much attention was given to relocating and finding new jobs for the evacuated population. It is well known that, in the wake of the accident, around 92,000 persons from 75 population centers in Kiev and Zhitomir Oblasts were urgently evacuated. Some 10,953 farmstead-type homes with outbuildings and 1,180 apartments with a total area of 65,380 square meters were constructed in 101 population centers in 1986-1987 to provide housing in rural parts of Kiev and Zhitomir Oblasts.

Medical institutions, trade, consumer services, and public catering enterprises, schools and preschool institutions, communication centers, rural soviet premises, and other facilities for social and cultural purposes were commissioned. A total of 517 such facilities were constructed.

Major construction work was carried out to provide amenities in a series of population centers in Kiev, Zhitomir, and Chernigov Oblasts adjacent to the Chernobyl AES zone. Main gas supply was provided in apartment blocks, roofs were replaced, fences and main water supply lines were constructed, and social, cultural, and consumer service projects were erected. All this work is still going on.

All evacuated families in the republic were supplied with well-appointed apartments or homes. Some 7,500 apartments and over 1,000 hostel spaces were allocated to Chernobyl AES workers and construction industry workers in Kiev, with a further 500 apartments in Chernigov.

All types of compensation payments and appropriate subsidies were paid to the evacuated population.

A system for thorough monitoring of the radioactivity level of water in the Dnepr water supply system, as well as in all rivers, reservoirs, underground water sources, and wells within the 30km zone and the adjacent rayons, was instituted immediately after the accident. A radiology service supplied with modern equipment and transport was organized in the republic.

Decontamination work was carried out on a large scale. Radiation levels on the AES site and inside its premises have been reduced to readings ensuring total work safety for operational personnel.

Comprehensive stations for the transshipment of freight, the decontamination of equipment, and the sanitary treatment of people have been built along the border of the 30km zone. Monitoring and decontamination stations for means of transportation have been set up along highways in other locations. Sanitation laundry units and decontamination stations have also been set up for the specialized treatments of different types of clothing.

Radiation monitoring and investigation work by forces from civil defense formations and other services is carried out throughout the territory of the 30km zone and the adjacent rayons. Radiometric monitoring has also been introduced in all markets in population centers of oblasts adjacent to the Chernobyl AES zone. This work is done by many laboratories, departments, and stations. Mobile laboratories are also operating to ensure more efficient monitoring.

Agricultural production has been restructured in the zone adjacent to the Chernobyl AES. Much work has been done to enhance soil fertility, improve the agrochemical qualities of the soil, and improve pastures through land reclamation, topsoil treatment, and the sowing of perennial feed grasses. In addition to all this, efficient methods for rational plant cultivation are being introduced on kolkhozes and sovkhozes and on personal subsidiary plots.

A plan for the delivery of milk, meat, vegetables, and other foodstuffs to the population living in rayons adjacent to the Chernobyl AES was elaborated and is being implemented. Furthermore, much explanatory work is being done there as regards fulfilling the recommendations for cultivation of agricultural crops on garden and subsidiary farm plots, the keeping of domestic animals, and the observance of personal hygiene rules.

A large package of construction work has been completed. The Zelenyy Mys settlement for duty personnel has been completed. Slavutich, a new city for power industry workers, is under construction on the left bank of the Dnepr to provide permanent housing for AES workers and their families. A corresponding production base has been established there, including concrete plants and mechanization and assembly stations. Construction organizations from the RSFSR, the Ukraine, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia are taking part in the city's construction.

Measures have also been taken to step up public order and to ensure traffic safety and fire prevention facilities around the AES.

I would like to say in conclusion that the calamity which befell us and our neighbors, our Belorussian brothers, has brought us together in the struggle against the nuclear storm. We support the proposals to create a State Comprehensive Program and an All-Union Coordination Center under the auspices of the State Commission for Eliminating the Consequences of the Chernobyl AES Accident.

Academic Comments on Debate Over Glasnost

PM211349 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with N. Karlov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and rector of the Moscow Physicotechnical Institute, by IZVESTIYA correspondent P. Gutiontov: "There Are No Questions Which Cannot Be Asked"; date and place of interview not given—first paragraph is IZVESTIYA introduction]

[Text] An IZVESTIYA correspondent talks with well-known Soviet physicist and USSR State Prize winner N. Karlov, corresponding member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and rector of the Moscow Physicotechnical Institute:

[Gutiontov] Nikolay Vasilyevich, heated arguments are now under way in society: about the past and the future, about the borders of democracy and the limits of glasnost, in short, about how we will live in the future. Most people support the changes taking place in life, but it has emerged that there are also many people, frightened by the changes, are frightening others. Moreover, "concern for young people" and their moral and political health is becoming a kind of banner in this battle. Would it not be better to "sound the retreat" before it is too late, they argue, so as not to confuse young minds once again...? Are we not betraying our ideals in reviewing and reassessing events in our history so resolutely?

[Karlov] You cannot live only for today. "The dead still cling to the living," as the old saw says; the future is largely determined by the present and the present by the past—they are intertwined. We must proceed from the awareness that the history of the fatherland is our history, all ours, with its pain, its blood, its triumphs, its lapses, and its failures.

Today our entire society, and especially young people, needs not only the filling in of the "blank spots" in history, although even elementary knowledge of the facts is greatly lacking. But we have an even greater need of analysis of ideas and a sober and honest evaluation of them.

At times we see attempts being to make us go back to thinking that the only possible path is the one which we traveled from the early 1930's. Forgetting that this path, which was certainly marked by historic landmarks, at the same time led to stagnation and precrisis phenomena. Some people contend that this was all law-governed: the emergence of the apparatus of repression, the atmosphere of suspicion, the abscesses in national relations that were driven inside, and administrative edict methods of economic management combined with the same methods in culture and science. They essentially propose the same path for the future, also. But this path is an impasse. By continuing to travel down it, we would not only lose economic might but would become a second-rate power. We would completely deprive socialism of any attraction and would deprive our children of faith in socialism.

In this connection, I want to say that I am sincerely delighted when I see that young people themselves (judging by students at our VUZ and the overwhelming majority of our students) have a superb understanding of the danger of "antirestructuring" ideas and actions and their hostility to the very spirit of the time. They understand and oppose these things.

I think that our society is now experiencing a complex, tense period: The opponents of restructuring are trying to launch a counteroffensive for they sense that there will be no other opportunity to go back. There already is no such opportunity, but they cannot seem to understand this. Nevertheless, we can see that the slightest signal not only activates the opponents of the changes but also demonstrates that they are quite numerous. However, this is natural—restructuring affects the interests of whole groups of the population. And not in the way that some people envisaged: I oppose the changes, since I am losing such and such as a result—the post that I occupy and the privileges that I enjoy.... Of course, everything is not so simple: The choice is often made unconsciously, and many people would probably sincerely take offense if they were called conservatives and reactionaries.

That is why the resolution of so many questions comes up against viscous resistance [vyazkoye soprotivleniye] today. Even dry friction is preferable (for movement is possible then—resistance is measurable and can be overcome). But with viscous friction—the more strongly you pull, the greater the resistance....

[Gutiontov] In your opinion, what forces constitute this "viscous resistance"?

[Karlov] First, it is the whole stratum of managers. They are directly affected by restructuring. But, unfortunately, the opponents of innovation have an even broader social base—those among the veterans, for example, (honest and sincere people, people to whom we are very indebted) who sometimes see what is taking place in our country as an encroachment on everything sacred which shaped their youth. That is why it is objectively difficult for them to separate in their minds, for instance, the image of the motherland from the image of Stalin....

There is, I think, one other very important element. We often flatter the "broad masses," flirt with them, and presume that if you have a "representative of working people," he will be "pro" and will understand and support restructuring.

I am afraid that this is not always the case. Ilya Yefimovich Repin once said that most people need material life, such virtues as they are capable of, and fine arts. This observation is quite gloomy, but it is also accurate in many respects. We still have to expend colossal efforts to cure people of easy and comfortable thoughtlessness.

That is why we believe that even a VUZ like ours should include in the curriculum disciplines like the history of the fatherland and social thought, jurisprudence, and even poetry. We must resolutely ensure that the humanities become an integral part of education.

[Gutiontov] Nikolay Vasilyevich, do you think that many VUZ teachers will agree with your position?

[Karlov] I understand what you are saying. There were also people at the Moscow Physicotechnical Institute who ardently welcomed the appearance of the article in SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA: It was, incidentally, immediately photocopied and recommended for study in the political education system and was discussed at a special session of the institute's methodological seminar on the initiative of the party committee. True, to the credit of its participants, it has to be said that the absolute majority of the speakers at the seminar (18 people spoke, and the session lasted more than 4 hours) scathingly criticized the ideas expressed in the article. It so happened, incidentally, that the seminar was held the day before the publication of the PRAVDA editorial article, and I admit that it was important to see that a great deal of what we thought and said coincided with the sharp and unequivocal party assessments.

As far as I can judge, most of our institute's teachers—physicists, mathematicians, mechanical engineers, and chemists—understand the situtation correctly and occupy correct positions in restructuring. I can say the same about the Philosophy Department staffers. But the situation is, unfortunately, quite different in other social disciplines. I believe that this is largely the result of the stagnation which prevailed in the teaching and study of these subjects for decades. Dogmatism, textualism, and the habit of merely going through the motions cannot be transformed into their opposite overnight, and it is not easy to inculcate in oneself a sense of free thinking and to transmit this to one's pupils. It would be a different matter if it were the contrary....

Here is just one example: A lecturer in the Scientific Communism Department spoke at the aforementioned seminar, and I was astonished by the feebleness of her speech. What did she talk about? The development of democracy (she saw this as the equivalent of demagoguery) has led, it turns out, to students asking questions to which she does not know the answers! She listed these "provocative" questions asked "at someone else's prompting." "What are the advantages of socialism over capitalism?" This is an example of a question which the social sciences teacher could not answer, which she was not ashamed of admitting. Not to mention the fact that the very suggestion that there are questions which cannot be asked is profoundly fallacious and such ideas only cultivate duplicity and hypocrisy, of which one would think that we have already had enough.

I will tell you straight that I have only been rector here for a short time, less than 1 year, and there is probably no department I spend more time on than the social scientists. The situation there alarms me.

[Gutiontov] I hope that you are not saying this because some of the teachers in these departments or the authors of articles which you disliked hold a different viewpoint from your own?

[Karlov] Of course not. Everyone must have the right to express his viewpoint. It is high time that we give up the idea that any dissenter is an enemy. Furthermore, it is precisely one of the tasks of glasnost to bring about a polarization of public opinion, the polarization necessary to work out any correct and well-conceived solution. In this respect, even the article I mentioned is indisputably useful: It clearly showed who is who, demonstrated the barriers that we still have to knock down, and expounded very clearly the positions of the opponents of restructuring.

[Gutiontov] I believe that the opponents of restructuring today have new weighty arguments in the dispute with their opponents.

[Karlov] Of course. Although even now, everything is by no means so simple. You know, when the article appeared in PRAVDA, I met one of the people who had most consistently upheld the opposite viewpoint the day before at our methodological seminar—a social sciences professor and deputy secretary of the institute's party committee. "I am still right," he said. "The future will show this."

Once again, I say: I am scared about the future if it shows that he is indeed right. But the very fact that today he can so openly disagree with the PRAVDA editorial article is a gain of our time, one of the gains which my opponent so resolutely opposes.

A. Adzhubey Compares Past, Current Reforms

LD241324 Moscow International Service in Slovak 1700 GMT 23 Apr 88

[From the "Moscow Evening" program; feature entitled: "After 30 Years, or Views on the Political Profile of Nikita Khrushchev" by editor Aleksey Yakovlev]

[Text] [Yakovlev] The changes taking place in the Soviet Union, the processes of restructuring and democratization, force us to pay more and more attention to our past. This is not only general curiosity; interest in history is evoked by the urgent needs of the present, by searching for the paths of our further development, the necessity to rid the Leninist bequest of later applications and distortions. It is quite understandable that together with us, our friends abroad also are paying attention to the history of the Soviet state, like all those who are not indifferent to the fate of restructuring in our country and the fate of socialism. Many of them share with us their views, and often their doubts. Listeners Helena Beranova, from Litvinov, and Vaclav Potozak, from Louny-Dobromerice, in their letters ponder events in the Soviet Union 30 years ago. This was one of the most important, and at the same time the most complex, periods in Soviet history, our listeners write. Important because it has something in common with the present restructuring in the Soviet Union, with the present process of democratization. Under Nikita Khrushchev, the first steps were made toward the renewal of Leninist principles and the purification of socialism ideals. What the present period and the period of Nikita Khrushchev's rule have in common, as well as the differences between them, are analyzed by Khrushchev's son-in-law, prominent Soviet journalist Aleksey Adzhubey, former chief editor of IZVESTIYA:

[Begin Adzhubey recording in Russian fading into Slovak translation] From the point of view of purification, of the explosion of a new atmosphere and new self-awareness and understanding of the world, we naturally can find a certain link between what happened in the mid-1950's and 30 years later. In the 1950's, there was a grandiose turn from the bitterness and fear that had ruled society in Stalin's times, to frankness and truth. In 1956, Khrushchev delivered at the 20th CPSU Congress a speech about Stalin, about the difficulties caused for the country by his leadership, about repressions against innocent people. In short, the importance of the 20th congress lies in the return toward the true ideals of socialism and in the beginning of important changes in all spheres of life. [end recording]

[Yakovlev] As is known, however, the reforms started in the mid-1950's were gradually liquidated. This is what Helena Beranova and Vaclav Potozak write in their letters: Nikita Khrushchev gave orders to various ministries and other central bodies for the elaboration of economic and political reforms of various kinds, but the red-tape apparatus always found ways to avoid responsibility, with the help of half-way measures and ambigious decisions. The planned economic and social reforms stood at a dead end, and Nikita Khrushchev's plans were not implemented.

Between the lines of this letter we can see a question that contains fears Soviet people are concerned about this question. It is being discussed seriously in numerous Soviet press publications now. Will the present restructuring, which started in April 1985, meet with the same fate? Listen now to what Aleksey Adzhubey thinks about this:

[Begin Abdzhubey recording] For myself, personally and for both young people and those of my generation this is a stand we (?do not fear). Our strength lies in the fact that we have learned lessons from the mistakes made following the 20th congress. I am quite old, but I do not remember such a magnificent atmosphere in the society as that of the present. Mikhail Gorbachev and his colleagues in the leadership are enjoying great support from the bottom, although the process of restructuring will not be an easy one—even in families problems arise—and so large a country as the Soviet Union cannot be an exception. I believe in success, however, as each day means a further step toward democratization of the country, toward true democracy for everyone at every level. This is what gives us strength and hope. [end recording]

Economic

Goskomstat Official on 1st Quarter Statistics

LD251914 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1450 GMT 25 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] The results of the country's national economy in the first quarter year have been summed up. At a news conference today, representatives of the USSR commented on this report. Following the news conference, Nikolay Grigoriyevich Belov, first deputy chairman of the USSR State Statistics Committee, gave an interview for our program.

[Begin video recording] [Belov] First of all, I would like to say that in the quarter year just ended, economic levers and stimuli have been put into effect to a greater degree. That has left its mark on the final results of economic management. The entire additional growth in

national income—and it was 4 percent—has been achieved by increasing productivity, and, in industry, even against a background of an absolute reduction in personnel.

It has been possible to make substantial progress in restructuring investment and structural policy. The relative share of capital investments being directed toward the technological reequipping and reconstruction of the national economy has increased; and the growth rate in machine-building production has been accelerated by 1.5 times.

[Unidentified correspondent] It appears that the principle changes in economic development are in the area of its social thrust.

[Belov] Yes, you are right. For the current 5-year plan, and including the first quarter which has just ended, the social thrust of our economic development is a particular characteristic. I would like to recall that over the past 2 years, the additional growth in the introduction of housing amounted to 13 percent. So that in the quarter just ended the growth in the introduction of housing has again risen by 5 percent. Plan targets for an increase in the growth of incomes among the population are being maintained.

[Correspondent] What does today's report from the USSR Goskomstat say about reserves in the development of the national economy?

[Belov] In industry, for example, 11 percent of enterprises and associations have not fulfilled their obligations in supplies of equipment, and while their number has declined notably—there were 23 percent of them in the first quarter of last year—nevertheless, the volume of undelivered production is quite large. It amounted to R1.5 billion. There are quite a few enterprises which are experiencing substantial financial difficulties, and have not developed their economic work to the required extent.

Finally, I would like to say that despite the fairly notable growth in the marketing of consumer goods and paid services—and this amounted to 6.5 percent—the solvent demand of the population for many goods, and in particular for food products, remained unsatisfied.

In many ways, the current year is determining the whole scope for implementing the new principles of economic construction, and that is why there are such persistent demands to develop those positive changes which are being noted in the results of the work of the national economy in the first quarter of this year. [end recording]

Further on Statistics

LD251632 Moscow TASS in English 1610 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Intensification of production has been the typical feature of the country's economic development in the first quarter of this year, Nikolay Belov, deputy chairman of the USSR State Committee on Statistics (Goskomstat), told a press conference in Moscow today.

Belov said that industrial output went up five per cent in January-March as against the same period last year, and added that the entire growth of production was achieved for the first time when the number of workers was reduced by a total of 400,000. Labour productivity in industry rose 5.4 per cent. By and large, a marked headway was made in the country's economic advancement, he summed up.

Belov noted that enterprises began honouring their treaty obligations more meticulously. They fulfilled 99.2 per cent of them in the last quarter as against 97.8 per cent last year. The output of such priority products as computer facilities has increased appreciably (by 16 per cent), of press-forging plant with numerical programmed control (17 per cent), rolling equipment (31 per cent), medical instruments (11 per cent), although on the whole the machine-building complex failed to fulfil the state order for a number of important indicators.

The first quarter of 1988 became a watershed one for the social sphere, Belov noted. The targets for the commissioning of general education schools were overshot by 39 per cent, of vocational schools—72 per cent, hostpitals—100 per cent as against the same period last year. The volume of paid services provided to the population grew 13.8 per cent. A total of 12.9 million square meters of housing space were built in three months (a five per cent growth).

At the same time, Belov said that the plan for retail trade was not fulfilled as regards the country as a whole, even though its scope has somewhat increased. Although trade in meat and dairy products was expanded, the population's demand for them is met not fully. Many manufactured consumer goods remain to be in short supply.

"In conditions of the growing democratization of the Soviet society, we regard as our duty to abolish 'blank spaces' and 'cover-up zones' which were present in statistical reviews even recently. An impartial picture of both achievements and drawbacks in the socio-economic sphere submitted to the broad public will serve to mobilize all of our forces to come to grips with the involved tasks of the drive for restructuring," Belov stressed.

Output, Productivity Rise

LD251453 Moscow TASS in English 1435 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—Industrial output in the first quarter of this year grew five per cent as compared with the same period last year. The increase in labour productivity was 5.4 per cent. The whole increase in output has been ensured with an absolute cut in the number of the workers through an increase in labour productivity. A report to this effect has been issued today by the USSR State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat). It summed up the results of fulfilment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in the first quarter of 1988.

Analysing the performance of this country's economic complexes, Goskomstat said that the fuel and energy complex, for example, ensured the output above the plan targets of two million tons of oil, including gas condensate, 5,500 million cubic metres of gas and 7.5 million tons of coal. Yet a number of amalgamations and enterprises have failed to meet the targets for the output of fuel and energy resources.

In January-March, consumer goods worth a total of more than 80,000 million roubles in retail prices have been produced, which is 5,000 million roubles up on the corresponding period last year.

At the same time the enterprises of a number of ministries lagged behind in meeting the plan targets.

Socioeconomic Figures

LD251500 Moscow TASS in English 1439 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The Soviet people received in the first quarter of the current year from the public consumption funds (for rest and recreation, medical attention, social security, education and culture) payments and benefits worth an aggregate of more than 40,000 million roubles, which is 2,000 million roubles up on the figure of the first quarter last year. This has been reported today by the USSR State Statistics Committee (Goskomstat). It issued statistics pertaining to the results of the country's socio-economic development in the first quarter of 1988.

The average monthly pay of the factory and office workers employed in the country's economy was 210 roubles as against 202 in the same period last year, or four per cent up on last year's figure. The pay to the workers in agriculture (collective farmers) in socialized farming—was respectively 148 roubles as against 143 (a three per cent growth). A growth of pensions paid to the factory and office workers and their families granted ten and more years ago was continuing. From January 1 this year, the minimum pensions to members of cooperative farms (collective farms) and their families paid for not less than ten years have been increased.

Measures were carried out to improve the standards of medical services. The rates of spending on the meals of the patients, purchasing medicines, equipment and inventory at health institutions have been increased, the free issue of medicines was introduced for the treatment of children aged under three, and other benefits have been introduced.

Measures were carried out to improve the material security of orphaned children and children left without the care of the parents.

As compared with the corresponding period last year the volume of housing made available for the population grew five per cent.

Changes Dictate 'Radical' Price Reform

WA18200118 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 1 Apr 88 pp 1-2

[Interview with V. Pavlov, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Prices, by B. Kovalenko; date and place not given—italics as published]

[Text] [Kovalenko] *Valentin Sergeyevich, interest in the scheduled price reform is very keen. There is lively discussion in the press and many different points of view have already been expressed. This is not surprising in view of the very involved, multifaceted complex of questions that will be addressed. What in your view is the most important aspect of this today?*

[Pavlov] The most important thing for all of us today is to recognize the fact that the need for radical price reform is dictated by objective changes in the level of development of society's productive forces and the fundamentally new tasks confronting the economy. The old system of prices was based on principles corresponding to the demands of the intensive path of development and have become an active brake on the development of the national economy, on increasing its effectiveness, and ultimately on the rise of our people's standard of living. This is specifically why there is a need for radical price reform, for the interconnected restructuring of our entire "price system"—wholesale, purchase, and retail prices and rates.

Many press organs and specialists, however, have focused their attention exclusively on retail prices. In so doing, consciously or not, they "forget" an objective regularity: the cost of the goods in our stores depends directly on the level of our economic management.

Such a one-sided approach is understandable. We are all consumers and the cost of food and items of everyday demand affects and interests everyone. But many people consider changes in the prices of rolled metals or machine tools, for example, immaterial. In reality, however, the level of these prices also necessarily affects the cost of food and other consumer goods. This connection

is simply hidden from our eyes by the indirect labor activity of the entire chain of collectives producing products that at first glance have no relationship to meat and milk.

This connection must be clarified competently and in depth. Otherwise the erroneous view that the living standard of the population is predetermined by someone's volitional decision or desire and not by the level of development of production and the productivity of social labor will not be corrected. The fact that the population's real income can be raised only through the relatively more rapid growth of the productivity of social labor compared with the growth of the population's money incomes will remain incomprehensible. Only then will wages, pensions, scholarships, and other types of the population's incomes, including receipts from social consumption funds, grow faster than the level of consumer goods prices and rates.

The radical economic reform that is taking place in the country is oriented toward the realization of this objective. But when the model of management of the economic mechanism is changed, it is also objectively necessary to modify the pricing model and to develop a new conception of this model. The point is not only and not so much to raise or lower the level of prices. Other prices and other pricing principles are needed. They must reflect existing and developing proportions and relationships in the national economy, the forms in which they are manifested, and the methods used to control them. All attempts to limit ourselves to half-measures—and it is not difficult to find them in our history—only complicate and confuse this already difficult socioeconomic reality.

The national economy must enter the next five-year plan with new prices. Pricing agencies are not in a state of passive expectancy as some people imagine them to be. A number of tangible steps have been made in the direction of the democratization of pricing and of creating on a new methodological basis a system of prices and rates that meets the demands of current economic practice. The rights of ministries, departments, enterprises, and organizations in the area of pricing are being expanded. Approximately 35 percent of the normative acts contradicting the democratization of management and the essence of the new economic mechanism have been repealed. New guidelines on the wholesale pricing of new machine building products and technical producer goods in the raw materials branches of heavy industry and on enterprises' establishment of contract wholesale prices on technical producer goods and services of a productive nature have been adopted and are in effect. This work will be actively continued.

[Kovalenko] *Naturally, heightened attention to the scheduled retail price reform is explained by the entirely understandable concern that people have for their family budget. But I think that there is also another reason: We have had repeated wholesale price reforms but they have never been connected to food and consumer goods—the nation's policy of stable retail prices has been in existence. In this regard, there are especially numerous references in the editorial mail to the "golden age" of the fifties when prices were not only maintained at a stable level but even declined. Why are we now compelled to abandon this procedure?*

[Pavlov] The fifties were, strictly speaking, more a time of apparent than real abundance. This period was characterized by the population's low purchasing power which was predetermined by its low incomes. Consequently, the level of consumption remained low. The abundance of so-called delicacies on the table of each Soviet family can be judged on the basis of the fact that per capita meat consumption in 1950 totaled 26 kg (compared with 62 kg today) and per capita milk and dairy products consumption was 172 kg (333 kg today).

Prices on consumer goods cannot in general be viewed in isolation from the remuneration of labor, the correlation of consumption and accumulation, personal consumption and social consumption funds, etc. Unfortunately we have not practically conveyed this connection in the mass media to the majority of the people, nor are we properly demonstrating this connection today. But nevertheless, I repeat, everything in the economy is interconnected.

However, if we are to thoroughly analyze the situation in the fifties, we must recall that as a result of the 1947 reform retail prices trebled compared with 1940 (food prices rose 3.6 times; nonfood prices—2.2 times). At the same time, even though labor productivity in industry increased by 48 percent, in construction—by 49 percent; in transport—by 39 percent between 1950 and 1955, wages rose by only 12 percent. That is, in actuality wages were frozen. Those who were working at that time will obviously recall how this was done: Output norms were raised by directive while prices remained the same or even decline.

Were, perhaps, rural dwellers, who comprised 60 percent of our country's population, in a better position? Kolkhoz workers at that time received an average of 16.4 rubles a month which was almost one-fourth of the earnings of blue- and white-collar workers. Agricultural products were in actuality purchased for extremely low prices. Kolkhozes received 1 kopeck per kilogram for their wheat while flour in stores sold for 31 kopecks per kilogram. Beef was purchased for 23 kopecks per kilogram and was sold for 1.5 rubles on the average. The corresponding prices for milk were 2.8 kopecks per liter and 22 kopecks retail. These purchase prices did not compensate and could not objectively compensate the socially necessary labor costs.

Consequently, the one-time sharp increase in prices, the artificially low level of wages, and the dramatic deterioration of life in the countryside predetermined the possibility—let us speak frankly—of a quite small annual

lowering of prices. Such is the economic reality of the "golden age." Here I would like to note that the history of our country is a textbook, enriched by experience and knowledge, that makes it possible for us to avoid repeating past mistakes.

The system that was discussed above could not objectively survive for a long time. In the mid-fifties, industry developed extensively, drawing population migrating from the countryside into production. But the migration of labor resources to the city was not occasioned by the intensification of production in agriculture which at that time could only be the objective basis for increasing agricultural output while the agricultural work force was simultaneously declining. For this reason, the threat of a food crisis surfaced soon thereafter. The same extensive path—the development of the virgin lands—was followed in an effort to avert it.

By 1962, the difference artificially built into prices immediately after the war was "eaten up" and it was necessary to resort to a simultaneous 30-percent increase in purchase and retail prices on meat and milk. Three years later, the level of purchase prices exceeded the level of retail prices and state food subsidies were introduced for the first time.

The large resources that were invested in the intensification of agricultural production paid off. However the increase in food production was paralleled by the growth of subsidies.

By entering the world oil market in the early seventies, our country was able not only to cover these costs but also to import food and other consumer goods through the sale of its national resources. However, foreign trade conditions changed by the end of the decade while the need for subsidies became progressively greater. This predetermined the need to raise prices on a number of foods. Initially the growth of prices affected only items in the so-called prestige group—gold, crystalware, rugs, automobiles, and gasoline—but it was later inevitably carried over to nonfood consumer goods, to imported and domestic *haute couture*, new products, etc.

[Kovalenko] *In other words, at the same time that we proclaimed a policy of stable retail prices, we were in actual practice forced to retreat from this policy?*

[Pavlov] Yes. This had long been obvious to everyone.

[Kovalenko] *Valentin Sergeyevich, many see the thrust of the impending reform as being to eliminate the unprofitable production of food. Consequently, the solution appears to be quite simple: It is sufficient to bring prices into line with costs, to forestall direct agricultural subsidies to the consumer, and thereby to secure the necessary balance. In this connection, I would like to return to subsidies and analyze the economic trap we find ourselves in at present. There is no doubt as to the need to increase the production of food. But this production is unprofitable. This automatically results in a continuous increase in state subsidies. They now total 57 billion rubles a year and possibly the most important point is the fact that they are growing much faster than food production. Hence, the state of balance cannot be long-lived. What in your view is the economic nature of these contradictions?*

[Pavlov] Extremely great and I would say self-sufficient significance is presently attached to food subsidies. They are assigned virtually the deciding role in the complex of pricing problems. This role is, as the saying goes, disproportionate to their rank. When we pay miners 18 rubles for a ton of coal and sell the same coal to the power industry for 12 rubles, we are dealing with precisely the same kind of subsidy. We only have to take a closer look at the practice of *wage leveling* [uravnilovka], of *setting unwarranted pay and bonus levels* [vyvodilovka], of paying higher wages for simple labor than for highly skilled labor and we will see that the nature of all these negative phenomena is one and the same. They are echoes of the same policy of "cheap" resources, including lowly paid live labor. I would go so far as to say that this is the basis of the extensive economic mechanism as a whole.

However, in itself the state subsidy is nothing more than a conventional instrument of economic regulation that is widely used in both socialist and capitalist countries. The key question is the effectiveness with which this economic lever is used.

Thus far, we have used subsidies to a considerable degree to compensate losses resulting from various factors and to compensate unwarranted differences in prices rather than to encourage more effective production.

What is the result at present? By subsidizing and marking up the prices of enterprises operating near or below the breakeven point, the state is generous in its dealings with agriculture or the selfsame coal mining branch. The latter sell their products to the consumer at prices that have been reduced... in some cases severalfold. Those who are to blame (if they can be found) for everything that can rot or be lost in the loading and unloading process, in transit, and finally in processing and utilization, do not pay the same full ruble the state paid but instead, like each of us, pay artificially lowered prices.

At the same time, those who economize resources do not receive a real reward for their efforts. It is therefore necessary to speak about change in the mechanism for using subsidies in general. The revision of the size and forms of subsidies and places where subsidies are granted is part of the overall restructuring of the system of prices in accordance with socially necessary costs. The most important thing here is to economize live and embodied labor. Everywhere and in all things.

[Kovalenko] *Our newspaper has written more than once about the cost of the "double bookkeeping." In particular about the fact that it is difficult to force people at dairies to economize raw materials because a broken bottle costs more than its contents.*

[Pavlov] This also has deeper negative consequences. After all, everywhere we encounter situations where costly things are sold for a low price and vice versa. In the production sphere, this results in false criteria that disorient managers, planners, and designers and force them to make incorrect decisions. It is hardly necessary to prove that intelligent, effective management on such a basis is impossible.

[Kovalenko] *It is indeed not necessary, all the more so now that the Law on the State Enterprise has taken effect and many branches are being converted to the new conditions of management. The entire question is how to do this in practical terms.*

[Pavlov] It is first of all necessary to get rid of the old pricing mechanism which is oriented not so much toward socially necessary as toward actual costs. Prices must be maximally flexible and must be sensitive to the slightest changes in supply and demand. To wait years for the next price revision is a luxury we cannot afford. Finally, the price system must function as a system. Changes in any of its links set off a corresponding reaction throughout the entire chain. This must be taken into account without waiting until the contradictions develop into the next round of disproportions.

The principle of democratic centralism offers the practical solution to these problems. The democratization of pricing is realized by transferring the maximum volume of pricing work to the enterprise level. Meeting with one another as seller and buyer, they must find mutually acceptable or to put it another way the socially necessary costs for producing a given product. Contract prices must play an important part here. Only daily oversight by the customer based on his economic interests can become the objective foundation of an effective price management system. The following must become fundamental measures in this regard: the direct dependence of the enterprise collective's income on the level of expenditures on material and labor resources, the saturation of the market with a wide range of products and as a result the elimination of their shortage.

As regards centralism, it must be realized through the state's retention of [the right] to determine the procedure for forming and applying prices, for pricing basic types of products, and for determining the cost structure of production and consumption. In addition, to ensure the priority of the public interest, it is essential to form an effective and flexible system of state oversight over price discipline.

In our view, such a formulation of the question is in keeping with the demands of the Law on the State Enterprise and the new economic mechanism.

[Kovalenko] *Valentin Sergeyevich, I would nevertheless like to conclude our talk with retail prices. Letters and certain statements in the press suggest that if state subsidies are concentrated on the final product, it will be possible to avoid the shortcomings you discussed and to preserve the existing price scale. At the same time, one quite often encounters the opinion that the State Committee for Prices is firmly convinced that the impending reform cannot be carried out without raising retail prices. Could you clarify these issues*?

[Pavlov] The transfer of subsidies to the final product as an integral part of the complex of measures to base pricing on socially necessary costs will make it possible to eliminate many of the indicated shortcomings from the production sphere. But as I have already said, subsidies are only part of the problem of effecting a cardinal reform of pricing and of bridging the gap between prices and socially necessary labor costs. Therefore the preservation of the existing level of retail prices will leave a considerable part of the braking mechanism untouched. What is more, in many instances it will aggravate its negative action even more.

The intensification of social production and raising the rate of economic development and the population's living standard objectively require the increased interest of all links of social production and of each worker in raising the effectiveness of their/his work. At the same time, in its effort to solve the problem of supplying the population with food—as one of the most important problems in the program for raising the living standard—the state spends 2-3 times more on basic foods than it realizes from their sale. For example, a kilogram of beef that costs the state 5 rubles 37 kopecks has an average retail price of 1 ruble 77 kopecks; a liter of milk—45 kopecks and 25 kopecks; a kilogram of potatoes—27 kopecks and 15 kopecks, etc. And yet, other things being equal, the state should receive through the retail price funds for the remuneration of the labor of not only the work force of kolkhozes and sovkhozes but of other branches as well that are engaged in the production and marketing of food since their wages are a part of its cost. From where shall we take the funds to defray this difference?

There are two ways. The first is to require kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and production collectives producing other types of products to increase labor productivity for the same pay. The other is to raise the prices of nonfood consumer goods and in this way to cover the cost of food production. But our own historical experience teaches us the very obvious fact that we cannot count on major successes with such organization of the effort and with such a price base.

The manifestation of the braking mechanism is seen in the forming level of retail prices which are primarily oriented toward significantly higher purchase prices, in the lessening economic incentive of the population to maintain livestock for their personal consumption, in the irrational consumption of food (feeding bread to livestock, etc.), and in certain other forms.

Nor will social justice be realized. It is appropriate to recall that in families with a monthly income of 50 rubles per person (granted that this is a small category of the population), the current annual meat consumption per person is 20 kg. In families with an income of 150 rubles per person, this indicator is 92 kg. Or take the level of prices on meat and the meat supply in Moscow, Tula, Leningrad, and Ryazan... Yet the subsidies apply to every kilogram of meat purchased for state prices. Thus, state funds intended for everyone will continue to be pocketed by those who are more favorably situated in terms of income level and place of residence.

So you see the point is not the position taken by the USSR State Committee for Prices or any other state body but rather the necessity of taking into account all the objective demands stemming from the present socio-economic situation and the ultimate goals of our development.

Here I consider it necessary to remind everyone of something that is common knowledge: the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress, decisions of subsequent CPSU Central Committee plenums, and speeches by party and government leaders clearly and unequivocally state that regardless of whatever the impending changes in retail prices, they will not lower the living standard of our people and that the living standard of some of the people will even be raised. When the general model of retail price reform is ready, it will be presented for public discussion.

In concluding our talk, I would like to once again emphasize that the impending price reform cannot in any event be reduced entirely to retail price reforms. The problem is much broader and deeper. It would be foolhardy at the very least to close our eyes to the real difficulties. The question today is as follows: Can we provide the national economy with an effective economic instrument that stimulates the attainment of high end results or not? Price reform is not an end in itself but is rather a means of solving problems that impede our development and the restoration of social justice. For most of the population, we see positive results in it and we are confident that this is the correct path. Hence also our belief that this is the path we must follow.

Ruble Convertibility, Free Trade Zones Viewed

PM251448 Rome AVANTI! in Italian
21 Apr 88 p 9

[Unattributed report: "USSR: Convertible Ruble Soon"]

[Excerpt] The process of bringing the Soviet economic system closer to the capitalist system is proceeding very rapidly. In fact by the first half of the nineties the ruble will be completely convertible, while free trade zones open to international markets will be established within the USSR very soon.

This was announced by Valeriy Ivanovich Rybin, economic adviser to Gorbachev, in a news conference in Rome at the Luiss University. "If we want to fully enter the international economic arena," Rybin said, "our currency must become convertible very soon."

Initially the ruble will be made convertible only with the socialist countries' currencies, while the process will later be extended to the capitalist markets.

As for the "free zones," Rybin stressed the need to move in the same direction as China by creating "one or more economic areas open to international trade." The convertibility of the ruble and the establishment of "free zones" are two essential ingredients of the current restructuring under way in the USSR, though Rybin did not conceal the difficulties inherent in the process, starting with the absence of an adequate foreign trade structure and the low volume of consumer goods exports.

Next Gorbachev's economic adviser identified another of the Soviet economy's shortcomings in the "pricing mechanism, which is currently unrealistic."

In the USSR, Rybin stressed, food and energy prices, are considerably lower than in the Western countries, though Soviet citizens pay more for high technology and consumer goods. "We must, however, bring our prices closer into line with those of the West," Rybin added, "if we want to move closer to the capitalist markets."

The current restructuring under way in the Soviet Union is not exclusively an economic process, however, but involves the political, social, and cultural fields as well. "It is necessary for us to facilitate a process of democratization and openness at all levels of production and society," Rybin explained.

Only thus will it be possible to surmount the factors hindering the renewal process, which are attributable almost exclusively to the mental inertia of our people, accustomed for too many years to only obeying orders from above, without ever taking personal risks." [passage omitted]

Agricultural

Foodstuff Production Targets Met in 1st Quarter

LD251447 Moscow TASS in English 1430 GMT
25 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 25 TASS—The industrial enterprises of the Soviet agri-industrial complex have met the targets of the first quarter as regards the production of foodstuffs, the USSR State Statistics Committee said today. It has summed up the results of the fulfilment of the State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR in the first quarter of 1988.

In the first quarter of the year, the agricultural enterprises put out 5.6 million tons of meat (in live weight), or two per cent up on the figure of the first quarter of last year, milk—17.3 million tons (five per cent up), eggs—15,600 million (six per cent up). Yet there are considerable shortcomings in the supply of the population with foods in some places.

Zaykov, Nikonov Visit New Poultry Product Store

PM251047 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Second Edition p 2

[TASS report: "Looking After Direct-Sale Trade"]

[Text] On 19 April the "Ptitsa" direct-sale store belonging to the "Stavropolskoye" broiler association opened for business in Orekhovo-Borisovo, one of the largest residential districts in Moscow's Krasnogvardeyskiy Rayon. More than 30 types of poultry produce are on sale there.

The store was visited by L.N. Zaykov, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary and Moscow CPSU Gorkom first secretary, and V.P. Nikonov, Politburo member and CPSU Central Committee secretary, who also acquainted themselves with the range of products on sale there.

They were accompanied by I.S. Boldyrev, Stavropol CPSU Kraykom first secretary; V.T. Saykin, Moscow Gorispolkom chairman; and senior officials of the CPSU Central Committee and the Moscow Party Gorkom.

There was a detailed conversation on the prospects for the direct-sale trade in poultry produce. During the conversation, the great significance of the development of this form of trade service for the capital's population was emphasized.

Nikonov Arrives in Krasnodar Kray 20 Apr

LD210423 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 20 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] Viktor Petrovich Nikonov arrived in Krasnodar Kray today. [passage omitted]

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov, who arrived here today, visited major scientific and training agricultural centers. The Kuban "Labor Red Banner" Agricultural Institute is the main generator of cadres. About 1,500 very highly qualified personnel leave the institute for rural areas. [timeframe not specified] Viktor Petrovich Nikonov examined an exhibition of scientific projects from the center of agricultural supply of the agro-industrial complex. [passage omitted]

The task which the rural workers of Krasnodar Kray set for themselves—to give more of better quality and cheaper produce to their homeland—cannot nowadays be resolved without the active aid of science. This is the main thing that was discussed at the meeting between the Kuban scientists and Viktor Petrovich Nikonov.

Tours Agricultural Enterprises

LD212248 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 21 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Excerpts] The visit of Viktor Petrovich Nikonov to Krasnodar Kray continues. Viktor Petrovich Nikonov today met with the collective of the lease unit of (Vasiliy Yakovlevich Shvetkov) from the Pamyat Lenina Kolkhoz in Timashevskiy Rayon. The unit's 14 members have leased more than 800 hectares of sugar beet fields. Formerly about 50 people were needed to carry out this work. Viktor Petrovich Nikonov inspected the unit's machinery. [passage omitted]

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov today visited the Kuban agro-industrial combine, where he saw an exhibition of the combine's products. He visited processing enterprises and social, cultural, and service amenities and met with those working in them.

Later today Viktor Petrovich Nikonov visited Kanevskiy Rayon of Krasnodar Kray.

Surveys Rice Institute

LD232102 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1430 GMT 23 Apr 88

[From the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Viktor Petrovich Nikonov today continued his visit to Krasnodar Kray.

[Begin video report by V. Obraztsov, identified by screen caption] Krasnodar Kray is a major rice-growing area: Roughly two-thirds of the rice produced by the Russian Federation is grown here. Viktor Petrovich Nikonov visited the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Rice. As well as creating new and intensive varieties of rice here, the scientists are setting themselves the task of programming the management of the sector. In an artificial climate chamber, the process of growing new varieties and hybrids is speeded up threefold. Good provision of technical facilities has helped the scientists to hand over three new varieties for cultivation in the past 2 years alone, immediately providing higher yields.

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov drew the scientists' attention to the boundless possibilities of genetic and cell engineering and to the need for coordinating the work with various scientific research establishments. The scientists at the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Rice have made direct contacts with their colleagues abroad.

Work is now being done here on a Soviet-Japanese rice project. The Soviet scientists are developing the technology for rice cultivation, while the Japanese side is developing the equipment.

At an exhibition of rice-harvesting and soil-cultivating equipment, Viktor Petrovich Nikonov looked at a Kuban combine harvester. This so-far experimental model was built jointly by the All-Union Scientific Research Institute for Rice and the technological design bureau of the Krasnodarselmash works. When these machines go into serial production, rice yields should increase by several quintals.

Viktor Petrovich Nikonov also visited Krasnoarmeyskiy Rayon. At the Kirov Kolkhoz he was told about the details of a model of financial autonomy: Over a period of 2 years, the farm not only paid off its debts but also made a profit that it was free to use.

Today Viktor Petrovich Nikonov took part in a meeting of the aktiv of the Krasnodar Kray party organization.

Scientific

Atomic Power Organization 'Spetsatom' Formed

LD251326 Moscow TASS in English 1223 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Pripyat, Kiev Region April 25 TASS—By TASS special correspondent Ivan Kirillov:

Twenty long-operating Soviet atomic power plants, the first of which began to be built in the '50s, will soon have either to be phased out or repaired and updated as reactors last between 30 and 40 years.

So far, such jobs haven't been done by anyone in the world. But a new organization in Pripyat, a town five kilometers from the Chernobyl nuclear power station, has been especially formed to handle such assignments.

Called Spetsatom and financially self-supported, it will be contracted to rectify malfunctions, deal with emergencies, do repairs, carry out modernization schemes and train personnel to work under higher-than-normal radiation.

Besides, it will develop and test robots and remote-control machines to operate in radioactivity-contaminated areas. Machinery manufactured in different countries for these purposes to this day has proved unreliable.

According to Spetsatom Director-General Yuriy Samoylenko, West European and Japanese robots delivered to Chernobyl in 1986 to clear away radioactive debris following an accident there turned out unfit to be used under those conditions. Their electronic brains quickly went out of order and they couldn't be controlled.

Speaking in a TASS interview, Samoylenko said: "The radiation situation at the Chernobyl nuclear power station and its surrounding area after the accident has been unique, just as has been the experience gained in dealing with its consequences.

"We should use this experience effectively so as to prevent the whole thing from recurring ever again. Our staff now includes 200 people. All of them have passed the test of Chernobyl.

"By year's end the staff is to grow to 1,000 people. They are being selected very carefully as Spetsatom personnel will have to tackle most complex tasks never encountered by anyone before."

The new organization has already won its first commercial orders and begun, for example, mothballing the first 210,000-kilowatt generating set of the Novovoronezh nuclear power station in the center of the European part of Russia, which went on stream in the early'60s.

Similar operations will soon get under way at the Beloyarskaya nuclear power station in the Urals.

Spetsatom, which will pay its own way, is expected by experts to make tens of millions of roubles of profits every year.

Scientists Study Chernobyl Radiation Effects

LD251853 Moscow TASS in English 1550 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Minsk April 25 TASS—Effective synthesized radionuclide absorbers have become the first product developed by a newly-established Soviet research center—the Radiobiology Institute of the Academy of Sciences of Belorussia.

Filters based on these absorbers have been tested in treating drinking water at Chernobyl following the accident there two years ago and rated high.

"The institute," its director Yevgeniy Konoplya, a corresponding member of the Soviet Academy of Medical Sciences, told TASS, "is concerned with finding ways to solve problems which have arisen in connection with the accident.

"One of the priorities is to study the impact of small radiation doses on people and animals and look for methods to reduce the unfavorable influences." The institute's personnel have launched long-term studies in areas with increased radiation levels where stationary research bases have been set up to monitor animals.

"This includes biological experiments into ways to get radionuclides out of their organisms as soon as possible," Konoplya continued.

He dismissed rumors that signs of mutations have been noticed in the offspring of some animals.

"I can say most definitely that no obvious deviations from the norm have been detected in the 30-kilometer zone around the nuclear power station and in adjacent areas.

"This does not mean, of course, that there is no danger. It will perhaps appear later. So the institute's task is to spot the possible trouble in good time and come up with ways to deal with it," Konoplya said.

U.S. Firm To Conduct Experiments on 'Mir'

LD221944 Moscow in TASS in English 1803 GMT 22 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 22 TASS—Upon the conclusion of negotiations on a number of technical and legal matters the U.S. "Payload Systems Inc." and the Soviet Litsenzintorg signed today the final version of the agreement on conducting a series of technological experiments on board the Soviet orbital station "Mir."

This is the first Soviet-American agreement on the use of Soviet space technology on commercial terms, endorsed by the U.S. Department of Commerce. The entire program of research to be conducted on board the Mir orbital station with the use of scientific equipment of "Payload Systems Inc." consists of six experiments, the first of which is to be made in 1989.

The firm's managing director Anthony Arrott told a TASS correspondent the USSR has been chosen since it is only the Soviet Union that now possessed unique space technology and opportunities to conduct experiments needed for the firm in conditions of prolonged manned flights. In this case it was intended to grow protein crystals in conditions of microgravitation. The information the U.S. firm intends to receive by these experiments will be of applied importance to be used mainly in creating new medicines. The "Payload Systems Inc." organises and conducts such experiments in the interests of U.S. pharmaceutical companies.

Anthony Arrott noted that warm and trustful relations were formed with Soviet partners during the work on the agreement. He expressed hope that these relations would be developed further.

'Mir' Cosmonauts Conduct Visual Observations

LD260904 Moscow TASS in English 0850 GMT 26 Apr 88

[Text] Moscow April 26 TASS—By a TASS special correspondent reporting from Mission Control Centre:

The Soviet Cosmonauts Vladimir Titov and Musa Manarov carried out in the past few days several series of visual observations and photographed parts of Soviet territory, specifically the Caucasus, West Kazakhstan and the Far East.

The objective of their geophysical research is to study the seasonal development of vegetation, collect information on the ecological situation in areas of intensive industrial activity, detection of forest fires and observation of meteorological processes in the atmosphere.

The cosmonauts made a number of experiments to assess the efficiency of star detection using new optical instruments and completed a cycle of measurements of elementary charged particle currents in near-earth space.

Today's schedule provides for experiments on the further study of the ionosphere and magnetosphere of earth, regular maintenance of on-board systems and physical exercises.

According to telemetry and crew reports, the flight of the manned orbital complex Mir (Peace) is proceeding normally.

Syria's Al-Asad Awards Cosmonauts in Damascus

LD250858 Moscow TASS in English 0815 GMT 25 Apr 88

[Text] Damascus April 25 TASS—President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria has presented the Orders of Heroes of the Syrian Arab Republic to Soviet cosmonauts Yuriy Romanenko, Aleksandr Laveykin and Aleksandr Aleksandrov, who took part in the joint Soviet-Syrian outer space flight in July last year. They have also been presented the Syrian Orders of Friendship and Cooperation. The presentation ceremony was addressed by President Hafiz al-Asad. He said that the USSR's achievements in outer space exploration are evaluated in Syria as a victory for the cause of peace all over the world. The Syrian leader wished the Soviet cosmonauts further successes in their activities.

Hydrogen-Fueled Plane Test Flight Successful

PM260825 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Apr 88 Morning Edition p 3

[Interview with Academician A.A. Tupolev, general aircraft designer, by V. Belikov: "Aircraft Fueled by Gas"; date and place not given—first paragraph is editorial introduction]

[Text] As has been reported (IZVESTIYA No 109), the world's first experimental flight has taken place of a Tu-155 aircraft fueled by liquid hydrogen and liquefied natural gas. Academician A.A. Tupolev, general aircraft designer, talked about the prospects for the use of nontraditional, so-called cryogenic, types of fuel in aircraft.

[Belikov] Aleksey Andreyevich, in the published TASS report, the Tu-155's maiden flight has been called a "new chapter in the history of Soviet and world aircraft construction." Why?

[Tupolev] Our design collective, in collaboration with the design bureau headed by Academician N. Kuznetsov—the creator of the NK-8 engine—and with the participation of many scientific research organizations and production facilities made it possible for a heavy airliner to fly on a fundamentally new fuel: liquid hydrogen.

The preparations for this took 9 years. The Land of the Soviets now has the lead. The value of the 21-minute flight is also that it was performed by a crew headed by V. Sevankayev, meritorious test pilot of the USSR, in what is essentially a modified Tu-154 aircraft, which is extensively used in civil aviation.

[Belikov] What were the pilots' impressions after landing?

[Tupolev] The crew reported that the handling differed in no way whatsoever from that of a conventional aircraft.

[Belikov] Hydrogen is the lightest gas and is very volatile; in combination with oxygen, it forms an "explosive mixture." Were special safety measures needed on board the aircraft?

[Tupolev] First, let me mention the merits of hydrogen as a fuel. It is the most efficient fuel as well as the most ecologically clean. Its "exhaust" contains only steam and a small amount of ozone. Incidentally, liquefied natural gas—the other fuel for the Tu-155—is 33 percent more efficient than aviation fuel, and its clean-burn can be judged by the quality of the air in the aircraft's galley.

To turn now to precautionary measures on board the aircraft: The liquid hydrogen is held in a kind of metallic "vacuum bottle" at a temperature of minus 253 degrees.

For safety reasons and to prevent a build-up of gas during an unforeseen leak, all supply lines have been taken out of the aircraft interior and slung along the outside of the fuselage in so-called fairings—closed ventilated boxes. The main thing is that there are gas detection devices literally all over the plane, which look out for even the smallest doses of hydrogen and immediately signal the crew in the cockpit. On receiving the warning signal, the pilots immediately switch on the booster [nadduv] and vigorously ventilate the relevant section of the aircraft.

We started test flights with liquid hydrogen because it is considerably more complicated and involved to work with than liquefied natural gas. If the fuel supply system and safety measures work out in the "hydrogen configuration," it will be simpler flying on the other cryogenic fuel.

[Belikov] On your table is a model of the Tu-154 with two cigar-shaped tanks on the upper surface of the wings. What are they?

[Tupolev] This is the most likely configuration for a modified aircraft using liquefied natural gas. Precise calculations show that the inevitable increase in wind resistance with fuel tanks in this position is entirely offset by the greater efficiency of gaseous fuel. In other words, there will be no loss of range or speed for airliners using gas as opposed to aviation fuel. But the economic benefits will be considerable.

Estimates produced jointly with the Ministry of Civil Aviation convince us that aircraft flying regularly to the gas-producing regions of Western Siberia, Central Asia, and the Lower Volga and refueling there with relatively cheap natural fuel, generate, as it were, a double saving. They save much-sought-after aviation fuel for other regions and also save on the considerable expenditure in transporting it from petroleum processing plants to far-flung airports. Nor should we fail to take account of the fact that we have far more known reserves of gas than of oil.

[Belikov] One might assume from what you have said that airliners using cryogenic fuel could become a reality in the very near future....

[Tupolev] Tests started a few days ago—they will have to be continued and brought to a successful conclusion! The regular flights you are talking about will not materialize in the next few months, but equally there is no reason to postpone them for many years. Initially, I think, the most suitable aircraft to be reequipped with the new fuel system will be the highly economical Tu-154m and the Tu-204, which is about to enter service with Aeroflot.

Later, as we gain experience in operating the aircraft and fitting airports with the necessary equipment for liquefying and storing the gas and using it in refueling, the question of designing a new airliner will inevitably arise.

Military

General Explains Idea of 'Sufficient' Defense

PM221119 Oslo AFTENPOSTEN in Norwegian 13 Apr 88 p 8

[Report on interview with Soviet Colonel General Vitaliy Karpov by Nils Morten Udgaard in Oslo: "Top Soviet Officer Meets Holst"; date not given—italics as published]

[Text] An extremely civil Soviet colonel general, Vitaliy Karpov, is in Oslo this week to explain what Moscow's "new thinking" means in the military sphere. "Before

our doctrines only dealt with the preparations for and the execution of military operations; what is new now are military doctrines about the *prevention* of war using political and military means," Karpov said in an interview with AFTENPOSTEN.

The 68-year-old colonel general, who is a departmental chief at the Moscow Military Academy, is said to be the highest ranking Soviet officer to have visited Norway, and yesterday he was Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst's guest for talks and lunch. He wished the minister "success with his work" but was probably not thinking here about the minister's current work to secure the Defense Ministry a 3-percent real growth rate in next year's budget....

Karpov has been invited by the Norwegian Foreign Policy Institute to address a "Clausewitz seminar" on strategy arranged by John Bingen. Talks at the Foreign Ministry and at the Fridtjof Nansen Institute at Polhogda, and a seminar at the Institute for Defense Studies are also on Karpov's agenda. These also fit in nicely with the Russians' diplomatic work.

[Udgaard] Has the Soviet Union abandoned its doctrine of forward defenses on its opponent's territory?

[Karpov] "We have declared that we will never be the first to go to war or to use nuclear arms. The exercises in which the Soviet Army is now engaged are devoted, first and foremost, to defense. However, a certain offensive element is always present."

He stressed that the Soviet forces deployed in central Europe have the form they have because of a long series of historical developments; the West takes the view that these forces have a strong offensive capability. "Our goal is to give our forces new structure, deployment, and armaments so that they can carry out their present task—which is to respond to an attack. Two large military groupings, each numbering 3 million men, are now deployed in Europe, and we think this is far too many. We propose reductions, to the 'minimum levels sufficient for defense,' but not leaving levels high enough to permit the launch of a surprise attack. On our side we have 20,000 more [as published] tanks than the West—even though many of them are old—while NATO, for example, has more tactical aircraft, combat helicopters, surface ships. Here we are in favor of a balance where the side that has more withdraws more," Karpov said.

[Udgaard] Will the Soviet Union have a surface navy as large as that of the NATO nations combined?

[Karpov] "This is a complicated question that the experts must work on to find a solution. The aim must be to find some form or other of balance in the naval sphere, too," the colonel general said, pointing to Soviet proposals for confidence-building measures at sea. The sea-based cruise missiles are an especially difficult problem in negotiations with the United States, Karpov said. "We are proposing a 'ceiling' of 1,000 such missiles with ranges over 400 km, whereas the United States wants restrictions only to apply to such missiles with a range of over 1,000 or 1,500 km," he said.

Karpov said that Moscow's objective is to ban all nuclear arms and to work for confidence sufficient to allow the military alliances to be dissolved.

But in ideological terms, he still assesses "imperialism" and "capitalism" as aggressive, since now as in the past the United States is striving for military superiority. The classic threat to Russia—a land attack from the West—has not decreased, said the colonel general, who fought as an officer from the first to the last day of Russia's last major war and who was involved as a young lieutenant in the taking of Berlin on 2 May 1945.